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NEARBY

BDA to invite applications for site allotment

BENGALURU
The BDA will invite applications to allot sites in Shivaram Karanth Layout from January 25 and first priority will be given to farmers who parted land for the project.
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Yathindra remark reignites Cong. leadership issue

SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU
Yathindra Siddaramaiah, son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said that his father will "continue as Chief Minister for the next five years without any disturbances" if people support the party in the Lok Sabha elections. » Page 6

Pak. slams strikes by Iran, recalls envoy

Islamabad asks Iranian Ambassador, who is in Tehran, not to return; says the air strikes were a violation of international law and the UN charter

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan recalled its Ambassador to Tehran on Wednesday, a day after Iran launched air strikes on Pakistan that it claimed targeted bases for a militant Sunni separatist group. Islamabad angrily denounced the attack as a "blatant violation" of its airspace, and said it killed two children.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the spokesperson for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, announced that Islamabad is recalling the country's Ambassador to Iran over the strikes in the restive southwestern Balochistan province. "Last night's unprovoked and blatant breach of Pakistan's sovereignty by Iran is a violation of international law and the purposes and principles of the charter of the UN," she said in a televised address.

Ms. Baloch added that Pakistan asked the Iranian Ambassador, who was visiting Tehran when the attack took place, not to return. Iran did not immediately acknowledge Pakistan's decision.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

A car leaving a hospital in Panjgur town of Balochistan where victims of the Iranian air strikes were moved on Wednesday. AFP

India backs Iran, terms strikes 'act of self-defence'

NEW DELHI
In a statement on Wednesday, India backed Iran on its strikes on alleged terror camps in Pakistan's Balochistan province, calling it an act of "self-defence". "This is a matter between Iran and Pakistan," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. » PAGE 12

SC will hear appeal filed by Uddhav camp on January 22

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday listed for January 22 hearing of an appeal filed by the Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) faction against the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's decision to dismiss disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the MLAs supporting him, holding them as the "real" Shiv Sena.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the appellant, made an oral mentioning about the case to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

The Speaker's decision came on January 10, nearly two years after the Uddhav camp moved petitions under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution in June 2022.

CONTINUED ON
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Crack down on hate speech, incitement to violence, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said authorities need to be "conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible".

It said this while ordering the Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh police and the local authorities to keep a close eye on public events planned by the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti on Thursday at Yavatmal and by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA T. Raja Singh at Raipur for seven days starting from January 19.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta directed the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police at the two places to look into the allegations of repeated instances of hate speech against the Samiti and Mr. Singh.

The Bench was hearing a plea filed by Shaheen Abdulla, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Nizam Pasha, urging the court to direct both States to withdraw permissions granted for the events.

> We require the authorities to be conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible
>
> SUPREME COURT

"We require the authorities to be conscious that no incitement to violence and hate speech are permissible... The DM and the SP, Yavatmal and Raipur, will take notice of the allegations made in the application," the Bench said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

II PU exam from March 1, Class X from March 25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has released the final timetable for the Class X (SSLC) and II PU examinations, according to which the SSLC exam will be held between March 25 and April 6, and the II PU from March 1 to 22.

II PU exam schedule is as follows: March 1: Kannada and Arabic; March 4: Maths and Education; March 5: Political Science, Statistics; March 6: IT, Retail, Automobile, Healthcare, Beauty and Wellness; March 7: History, Physics; March 9; Optional Kannada, Accountancy, Geology, and Home Science; March 11: Logic, Business Studies; March 13: English; March 15: Hindustani Music, Psychology, Chemistry, Basic Maths.

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Udita repays coach Schopman's trust with a meteoric rise

The defender from Haryana has adapted well to the new position and is fast becoming one of the most trusted penalty corner specialists whom skipper Savita can rely on

PTI

Nihit Sachdeva
RANCHI

After a shocking 0-1 loss to USA in its opening fixture of the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers here, India's qualification route to semifinals had become tricky. The host had plenty of chances, including seven Penalty Corners, but lack of clarity during the PC routines. combined with some stunning goalkeeping from USA's Kelsey Bing, made sure that the equaliser never came.

India entered its second Group-B match against New Zealand on Sunday in a must-win situation and scored within 40 seconds of the push back. However, the Black Sticks made it 1-1 soon and the pressure was back on Savita Punia's team.

The goal that restored India's lead and perhaps, the belief in the capacity crowd at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Stadium, came from a PC in the 12th minute after Lalremsiami was tackled from behind and umpire Wanri Venter blew the whistle while pointing towards the Kiwi goal with both arms. Vaishnavi Phalke injected the ball, Monika halted it cleanly but goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon blocked the slap shot from the player wearing jersey no. 18.

However, Sonika won another PC as she hit the rebound into an opponent's body. This time, the no. 18 went through the legs of defender Casey Crowley, stationed at the left post, and struck the backboard, much to the delight of the spectators braving the cold weather.

Two minutes later, Beauty Dung Dung made it 3-1 with no more goals till the final hooter.

That player with '18' on her back was defender Udita. Not only was it a crucial goal for the team, but personally, for Udita, it was the best way to celebrate her 26th birthday.

With Vandana Katariya ruled out due to injury, and experienced drag flickers Deep Grace Ekka and Gurjit Kaur not being part of the squad, coach Janneke Schopman was asked about the potential PC takers before the tournament began. One of the five names the Dutchwoman mentioned was Udita. "Udita is developing her skill from the top of the circle," she had said.

The defender from Haryana, who started her career as a forward before a major injury forced the positional change, justified Schopman's trust not once but thrice.

In its match against Italy on Tuesday, India only needed a draw to edge New Zealand for the second and last semifinal spot from Group-B. Once again, India got off to a blistering start as Salima Tete earned a PC inside the opening minute and Udita found the back of the net with a slap.

In the 5-1 win over the Italians, India's last goal too came via a successful PC conversion from Udita in the 55th minute.

Another outstanding performance on another special night - the defender had just played her 100th match for the country.

For Udita, though, the responsibility of PCs is not something new. "I have been practising taking PCs throughout my career. It is just that the team had many drag-flickers before. Now, that number has decreased. It also depends on how the opposition's PC defence is," said the 26-year-old. Udita has been a member of the Indian squads in the recent successes - Asian Games silver and bronze in the last two editions, Commonwealth Games 2022 bronze and titles at FIH Nations Cup 2022 and Asian Champions Trophy 2023.

She was also there on the turf in Tokyo three years ago when India lost to Great Britain in heartbreaking fashion in the bronze medal match at the Olympics.

On Wednesday, India will look to confirm its ticket for the Summer Games in Paris with a win over World No. 5 Germany in the semifinals and another special performance from Udita could be the key to victory.

THE GIST

- A major injury forced Udita to switch from her role as a forward
- She completed 100 international appearances during the contest against Italy
- Udita has been an integral part of the successful Indian teams in the last few years

Moriyasu's side hoping to inspire victims of one of Japan's worst natural disasters in recent times through the Asian Cup football tournament

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

Shinngi Takesono, the chief priest of a 500-year-old wooden temple, was rushing home after experiencing a foreshock of an earthquake (of magnitude 5.7 on the richter scale) in the Noto Peninsula of northwest Japan.

The 58-year-old, married to Hatsue, who was 59, wanted to get as close to his family as possible. Just when he reached in front of his house, the main quake hit, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6. The tremors were so strong that he could not get out of the car.

And in front of his eyes, his 45-year-old house collapsed. He called out for his wife multiple times but heard nothing. Two police units and a sniffer dog arrived later and after three hours of searching, they returned empty-handed.

This is one of the many incidents from Wajima, one of the worst-hit cities by the earthquake, followed by fire, hours after its New Year celebrations.

According to the United States Geological Survey, it was the fiercest quake in the region since 2011. So far, over 200 people have been confirmed dead, 565 people injured and close to 10,000 people have been displaced.

When the Japanese men's football team arrived in Doha - for the AFC Asian Cup - two weeks after the quake, one could feel the sombre air of the catastrophe around the Blue Samurais.

Hajime Moriyasu, the head coach of Japan, said that his boys will look to give the country hope through football.

"Many people died and suffered and are still suffering from this earthquake. I think if our performance as a football team can inspire or encourage the people who are still suffering, that is one thing that we can do to encourage these people," he said.

Wataru Endo, Japan's captain, added, "We would like to play and win for those people."

On Sunday, against Vietnam in its opening game, Takumi Minamino opened the scoring for Japan. And, as his team trailed 1-2 at a point in time, he equalised, starting the comeback as Japan finally won the game 4-2.

Minamino's family had survived one of Japan's worst earthquakes, the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, with the midfielder being born just hours after the disaster. Nearly three decades later, his performance inspired hope for victims.

After full-time, the full team paraded around the field with a white banner that read "United Together!" for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake 2024.

Fans had also turned up with posters for solidarity, which read, 'We will overcome this together', which also earned applause from the whole team and staff.

AFP

"I wish they recover as quickly as possible. Keep fighting!" Takefusa Kubo, who contributed to the fourth goal within minutes of coming on, told Sportstar.

"The objective is to give positive energy to people who suffered the earthquake. We hope people enjoy our match and we will keep trying to win the tournament and give people something big to be happy," he added.

Football has always been a source of immense inspiration in Japan.

In 2011, months before the FIFA Women's World Cup, the country was devastated by its worst-ever earthquake. After the tremors, a tsunami followed, killing close to 20,000 people and severely affecting thousands more.

"We spoke amongst ourselves countless times whether it was okay to go to the World Cup when Japan is going through such a difficult time," recalls Ayo Miyama, a former midfielder of the national team in one of the episodes of the documentary, *This is Football*.

"We decided the best thing was to play and encourage people with our performance," says Homare Sawa in the same episode.

Japan played the defending World Champion, Germany, in the quarterfinal. Right before kick-off, the backroom staff prepared a clip on the disaster to inspire the girls to fight for the victims.

The girls went on to beat Germany 1-0 in regulation time and the United States 3-1 on penalties in the final as thousands of Japanese fans woke the night to watch the summit clash.

Japan became the first and only Asian nation to win the title, inspiring an entire generation which has now made the side one of the strongest to beat in global football.

At the Asian Cup, the men's team of Japan already has a legacy. It has won the tournament four times and is the most successful side in its history.

But in Qatar, at the 2023 edition, it will look to go the same way, inspiring people by eventually winning the title in the same country where it last won the title 12 years ago.

"We are looking to win the tournament. We must take each match once at this time. We must improve as long as we go along the tournament," Moriyasu said.

"We have seven matches if we go to final, so we have to take each match by itself. I think all our players will be participating as a team. We have to think about seven matches in total."

Japan plays Iraq next, at the Education City Stadium on January 19, and will finish its group stage against Indonesia, five days later at the Al Thumama Stadium.

UTTAR PRADESH
INDIA'S GROWTH ENGINE

Rapidly moving towards the target of becoming a trillion dollar economy, Uttar Pradesh has bagged leading positions on a number of indices tracking changes and ransformations in states of the country. Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has ensured continuity of sectorial policies framed in line with Ease of Doing Business and worked on a plan to bring investment to each of 75 district. The policy aims at creating a progressive, innovative, and competitive industrial ecosystem generating employment in the state while mobilising investments from across the world. The state is developing a strong infrastructure base consisting of Highways, Expressways, Link Expressways and Airways along with East and West Dedicated Freight Corridors. Measures to improve tourism and pilgrimage infrastructure in Ayodhya, Kashi and Prayagraj are now poised to deliver good results. Growing almost 21% over the previous year's figures, UP's GST revenue in FY 2022-23 was Rs. 107,407 crore. A revenue surplus state, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the growth engine of the country with rapid development in all sectors.

World's longest solar street light project is being implemented in Ayodhya on a stretch of 10.2 km from Guptar Ghat to Lakshman Ghat.

Abhinandan Lodha group has partnered luxury hotel chain Leela Palaces to open **Ayodhya's first palatial hotel**.

- Rapid pace of development reflects in completion of large projects like the Purvanchal **Expressway** and Bundelkhand Expressway. Ganga Expressway to be completed by the end of 2024.
- **Metro rail services** operational in 6 cities- Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra. UP Govt has approved Rs. 5,881 crore for expansion of Lucknow Metro.
- **Greenfield Airport at Ayodhya** operational. Air services from Moradabad to start very soon. The state now has 10 operational airports.
- One of the most beautiful and **grand railway station** redeveloped at Ayodhya Dham.
- **Ayodhya** is being developed as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Development projects worth Rs. 31,000 crore being implemented and will be completed over 10 years with an investment of over Rs. 85,000 crore.
- **'Noida International Greenfield Airport'** at Jewar to have multiple high-end connectivity options.Excellent road, metro & rapid rail will connect Jewar. A new railway line from Chola to Rundhi is also under consideration, Jewar lies in between.
- **Inland waterways services** operating in the Ganga River from Varanasi to Haldia.
- India's first **freight village**, developed on 100 acres in Varanasi.
- **Inland Waterway Authority** to operate cruise services in rivers like Rapti, Saryu, Ganga, and Yamuna.
- Country's first **rapid rail service** operational connecting Meerut to Delhi 'Namo Bharat'.
- India's first public transport **ropeway** system being developed in Varanasi
- Government approves construction of 250-Km long six-lane **Vigyan Path** to connect the state capital with six surrounding districts. Many industrial parks, educational institutions and other facilities to be developed around 20 nodes on this circular road.
- Infrastructure development is underway in a 1000 acre **International Film City**, Noida.
- Work in progress at 350 acre **medical device park** at Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- 1000-acre **textile park** being established at Lucknow and Hardoi.
- Construction of **flatted factory complexes** in full swing in Agra, Kanpur and Gorakhpur.
- 6 nodes in Uttar Pradesh **Defence Industrial Corridor:** Aligarh, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi construction in progress.
- North India's first hyper scale **data centre** established in Greater Noida.
- **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor** and the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor** pass through Uttar Pradesh. Also, the two corridors have a junction at Dadri.
- Lucknow to become the country's first **'AI City'** as Yogi Adityanath government has initiated a process to create an 'AI City' in 40 acres area in Nadarganj Industrial Area, Lucknow.
- Lalitpur **Bulk Drug Pharma Park** gains momentum. Government initiates development for phase-1 of the Bulk Drug Park to be constructed on 1472 acres.
- The **Nivesh Mitra** portal facilitating the investors as most robust single-window service provider in the country. It offers access to 454 services of 37 departments.
- UP tops list of country's leading **mobile phone manufacturing** state.
- In order to encourage non-traditional energy options, the state to soon introduce a **Green Hydrogen Policy**.
- Various supportive initiatives of Uttar Pradesh government has resulted in 9% growth rate in the **farm sector**.
- Uttar Pradesh has the **largest MSME base** in the country. The MSME sector has been mainstay of the new industrial environment in the state. It offers employment to more than 02 crore people.
- Grand success of **'One District One Product'** scheme has established UP as an export hub. Exports have grown three-folds in the last 6 years.
- Investment proposals received at and since the **UP Global Investor's Summit** in February 2023 have crossed Rs. 40 Lakh Crore mark. These investments are expected to create more than 1.10 crore jobs and employment opportunities.
- Preparations are on for **Ground Breaking Ceremony** with industrial projects worth Rs 15 lakh crore, at minimum. More than 8000 projects are ready to get off the ground.
- In the last 6 years, the number of **tourists** coming to the state increased from 3 crore per year to 32 crore per year.

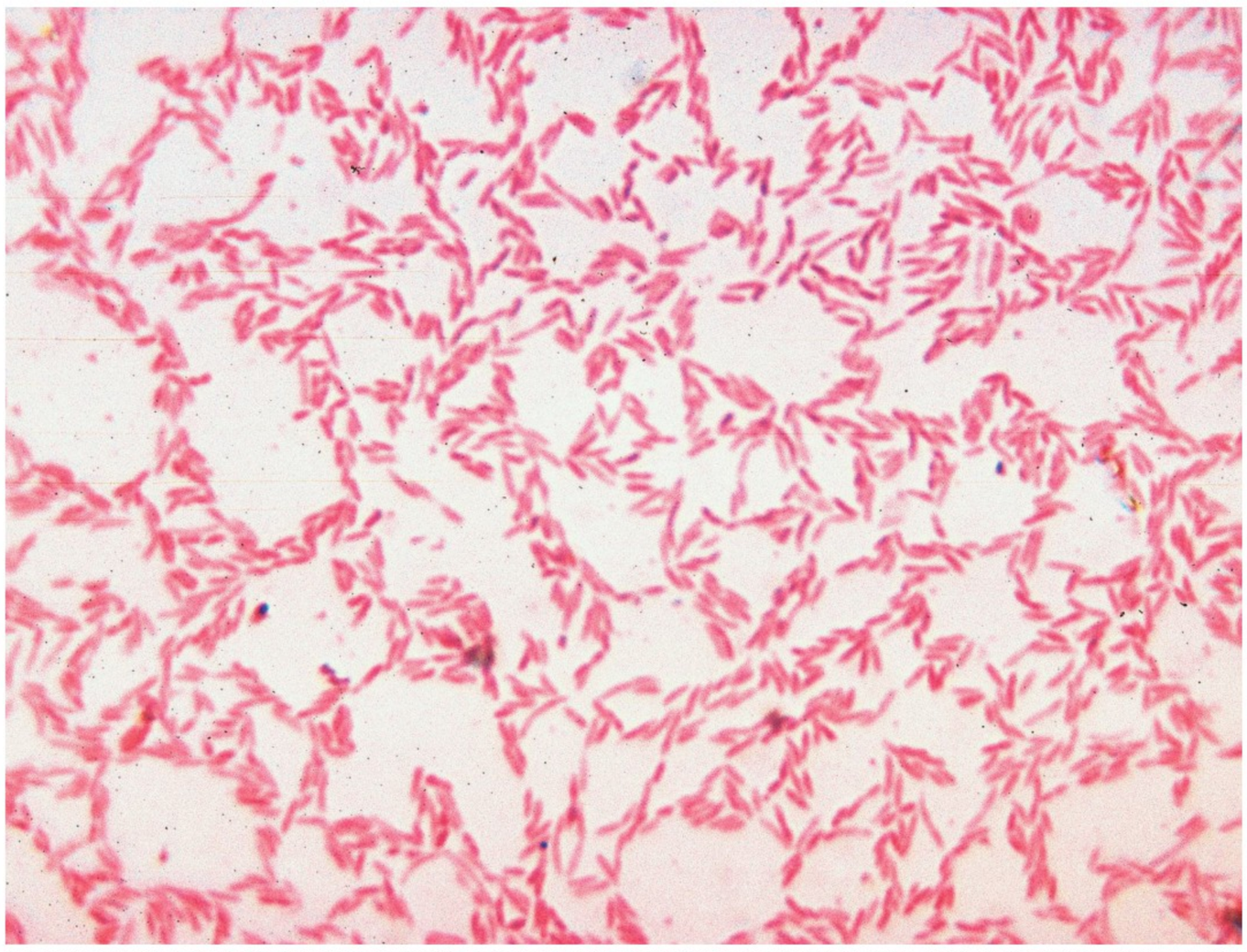
Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

A BG-BGE

Listen to your gut – it may be telling you something about your heart

Scientists have published numerous studies on how the environment, diseases, and our diets affect the composition of our gut microbiome. But there's been increasing evidence of late to suggest differences in our genetic make-ups could also affect the diversity of gut microbes

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria



A large number of bacterial species in the human gut microbiome belong to the genus *Bacteroides*. Shown above is a culture of *Bacteroides biacutis*. U.S. C.D.C.

The human microbiome is a community of trillions of microorganisms that reside in our body, especially in the digestive tract. It is a dynamic community that plays a pivotal role in regulating our health and diseases.

These microbes influence various aspects of our well-being, including the way we digest food, absorb nutrients, metabolise key metabolites, develop immunity, and keep good mental health. This is why scientists have been immensely interested in understanding the intricate relationship between the human genome and the body's microbial inhabitants.

Genomic technologies have been central to our knowledge of the human microbiome. Many microorganisms of the microbiome aren't amenable to being studied in a scientist's traditional way: by culturing them in a lab.

In 2012, an international consortium of scientists launched the Human Microbiome Project that provided the first glimpses into the human body's complex microbial makeup using genome sequencing.

The microbiome and health

Today, scientists widely accept that a healthy human microbiome is essential for healthy living. For example, we know that the human gut microbiome contributes to essential physiological functions like digesting food and absorbing essential nutrients. The microbes involved in these activities also produce some enzymes the human body requires to function normally.

Conversely, if the population of one microbe becomes excessive or the composition of a community of microbes changes, the body can develop a variety of health conditions.

The human microbial communities also change over time. When sick people take antibiotics to treat an infection, their gut microbial compositions change significantly – and return to their 'original' state after some time.

Some medical researchers also artificially change the human microbiome composition in order to achieve some clinical outcomes. For example, researchers have used a treatment called faecal, or intestinal, microbiota transplant – i.e. transplanted microbiota from a healthy to a sick individual – to control infections of a bacterium called *Clostridium difficile*. Researchers have also used faecal microbial transplants from donors to people with extreme obesity to improve their sensitivity to insulin and 'resolve' other metabolic syndromes.

In sum, we have lots to gain from knowing the optimal composition of the human microbiome and the ways in which it influences our health.

From the gut to the heart

Scientists have published numerous studies on how the environment, diseases, and our diets affect the composition of our gut microbiome. But there's been increasing evidence of late to suggest differences in our genetic make-ups could also affect the diversity of gut microbes as well as the abundance of specific microbe populations.

In fact, how exactly an 'effect' could travel from our genes to the microbes in our gut has been an enigma until now. In a large study - involving 9,015 individuals from four Dutch cohorts - published on January 3, researchers from institutes in Australia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Tanzania, the Netherlands, and the U.S. investigated the link between human genetic variations and the genes of gut microbes.

Specifically, they identified a link with variants of a gene cluster in organisms involved in metabolising an amino-sugar molecule called N-acetylgalactosamine. The organisms with this gene cluster had more individuals with specific genetic variants in the ABO blood group locus (a locus is a place on a chromosome where a gene is located). The ABO blood group in humans is determined by specific variations in the human genome.

Genetic variants in ABO blood group loci, and consequently ABO blood groups, have been previously associated with a number of cardiometabolic traits, including lipid levels and blocks in blood vessels. More recently, scientists have also unearthed links with the risk of severe COVID-19 infections.

The researchers' experiments also revealed that microbial strains that possessed this gene cluster could use an amino-sugar called N-acetylgalactosamine as their sole sugar source.

The strong association of the ABO locus in the human genome and the gene cluster associated with the metabolism of N-acetylgalactosamine in specific microorganisms – like in *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* and *Collinsella aerofaciens*, which scientists have studied extensively in the context of cardiovascular risk – suggests that the association of ABO and risk for cardiovascular disorders could in part be modulated through the microbiome.

> The hduman gut microbiome contributes to physiological functions like digesting and absorbing nutrients. The microbes involved in these activities also produce enzymes the human body requires to function normally

Potential links to cancer

Scientists have also been probing a link between gut microbes and human cancers. In a recent article published on January 2, researchers found that the development of colorectal cancer could be mediated by a molecule called trans-3-indoleacrylic acid (IDA). That is, administering IDA – or implanting the microbe Peptostreptococcus anaerobius – in the gut of mice caused them to develop colorectal cancer.

(Older studies had found the bacterium *P. anaerobius* to be enriched in the gut of people with colorectal cancer.) The researchers also found the effects of IDA could be abolished by deleting two human genes – AHR or ALDH1A3 – thus revealing a new opportunity for cancer therapy.

Evidence is also mounting that the human microbiome can be associated with how neurons 'talk' to each other. Gut microbes produce vitamin B12 – and in a recent paper, also published on January 2, researchers from the University of Massachusetts suggested the vitamin could influence neuronal signalling by influencing the availability of free choline, a molecule neurons use to make a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine.

Colour of urine

We've known for many decades that the yellow colour of urine comes from a pigment called urobilinogen. Urobilinogen is produced in the body when the body metabolises bilirubin. And bilirubin is produced when the body metabolises haemoglobin in the blood. This is why a high level of bilirubin - seen in the yellowing of the eyes - is associated with jaundice.

In a January 3 paper, University of Maryland researchers suggested that the human microbiome could be involved in the metabolism of urobilinogen. Using biochemical analyses and comparative genomics, they identified a bacterial enzyme, called bilirubin reductase (BilR), to be responsible for reducing bilirubin to urobilinogen, a pivotal step in this process that has so far remained out of sight.

Through genome sequencing, the researchers observed that microorganisms belonging to the species *Firmicutes* predominantly encode the gene that teaches cells to make BilR. They also found that BilR is nearly ubiquitous in healthy human adults – but is less prevalent in newborns and people with inflammatory bowel disease. Their findings emphasise the importance of the gut-liver axis in maintaining bilirubin levels.

In this way, human genomic studies will shape healthcare of the future by personalising interventions.

(The authors are senior consultants at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur. All opinions expressed here are personal.)

The DNA of ancient Europeans reveals adaptations to livestock diseases. REUTERS

Ancient DNA reveals origins of multiple sclerosis

Reuters

DNA obtained from the bones and teeth of ancient Europeans who lived up to 34,000 years ago is providing insight into the origin of the often-disabling neurological disease called multiple sclerosis (MS) – finding that genetic variants that now increase its risk once served to protect people from animal-borne diseases.

The findings stemmed from research involving ancient DNA sequenced from 1,664 people from various sites across Western Europe and Asia. These ancient genomes were then compared with modern DNA from the U.K. Biobank, comprising about 410,000 self-identified "white-British" people, and more than 24,000 others born outside the U.K., to discern changes over time.

One striking discovery related to MS, a chronic disease of the brain and spinal cord that is considered an autoimmune disorder in which the body mistakenly attacks itself.

The researchers identified a migration event about 5,000 years ago, at the start of the Bronze Age, when livestock herders called the Yamnaya people moved into Western Europe from an area that includes modern Ukraine and southern Russia.

They carried genetic traits that at the time were beneficial, protecting against infections that could arise from their sheep and cattle. As sanitary conditions improved over centuries, these same

Owing to sanitation and medical care, these genetic variants became surplus to our immunological requirements, resulting in an increase in the risk of developing MS

variants increased MS risk.

This helps explain, the researchers said, why Northern Europeans have the world's highest MS prevalence, double that of Southern Europeans.

Around 11,000 years ago, farmers from the area of modern Turkey expanded into Western Europe, replacing hunter-gatherers. It was these agriculturalists who the Yamnaya later replaced.

"We think that much of the replacement that happened involved warfare," University of California, Berkeley, population geneticist Rasmus Nielsen, one of the leaders of the research published in the journal *Nature*. added.

High Yamnaya-related ancestry exists in Northern Europeans, peaking in Ireland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and decreasing further south.

"Pathogenic infections increased in frequency during the Bronze Age, due to close proximity between people and their domestic animals, as well as rising population density," University of Copenhagen computational evolutionary biology specialist and research co-author Evan Irving-Pease said.

"It was not until the modern era, with widespread sanitation and medical care, that these genetic variants became surplus to our immunological requirements, resulting in an increase in the risk of developing MS and other autoimmune diseases," Irving-Pease added.

"This changes our view of MS, helping us understand its origins," University of Cambridge geneticist and study co-author William Barrie said. "We can see MS as the result of an immune system which has efficiently evolved to cope with a range of infections in the human past but which now exists in a very different environment."

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The situation is heating up – and its properties are changing

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
In 1847, a scientist discovered a temperature — of around 525 degree C -- at which all solid objects start to glow a dim red colour. What is this point called?

QUESTION 2
The _____ _____ is the temperature at which a substance spontaneously catches fire without the need for a spark or a flame. For example, this temperature for diesel is 210 degrees C and 585 degrees C for hydrogen. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3
At a temperature of around 3.6 trillion K, objects double in mass. This is as a result of the _____ _____ of _____, which — among other things —- relates matter's velocity with its mass. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
Stars, including the Sun, fuse lighter elements before heavier ones. But one exception to this is that neon fusion happens before _____ fusion. Fill in the blank with the name of the element whose nuclei are harder to fuse because they're more stable, and need a temperature of at least around 1.5 billion K.

QUESTION 5
A particle made of two or more subatomic particles is called a hadron. The _____ _____ is the name of the temperature beyond which hadron matter can't exist. I.e. it's the temperature above which hadronic matter boils. Fill in the blank.

Answers to January 11 quiz:
1. Scientist who discovered francium by purifying actinium-227 – **Ans: Marguerite Perey**
2. Alkali metal used in electric batteries in oxide form as a cathode – **Ans: Lithium**
3. Alkali metal sixth most abundant in the earth's crust – **Ans: Sodium**
4. Metal making up 0.2% of the human body by mass – **Ans: Potassium**
5. Alkali metal at ambient conditions and can spontaneously catch fire – **Ans: Caesium**
Visual: **Rubidium**
First contact: Samir Gupta | Vikas Singh | Dhiraj Lal | Pranatha M. Prabhakar | K.N. Viswanathan

Visual: This is the star WR 124. What does WR mean? It's a label given to stars that, among other features, have the hottest surface temperatures, up to 210,000 K. NASA

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BDA to invite applications for allotment of sites in Shivaram Karanth Layout

Priority will be given to farmers who parted with their land for the project, says Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will commence the allocation process of sites in Shivaram Karanth Layout and first priority will be given to farmers who parted land for the project. The BDA will invite applications to allot sites from January 25.

This was announced by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a press meet held at the BDA head office on Wednesday after conducting a review meeting of BDA works. Mr. Shivakumar said that he reviewed the work progress at Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and for the former, an online facility will be made available for the public to apply for sites, besides applying physically in BDA offices in the city.

Mr. Shivakumar said that within a span of one month, applicants have to pay 12.5% of the site value as deposit and for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the sum is 5% of the site value. He assured that site allocation will be done transparently.

He also said that the BDA has identified 25-30 acres of land to build a Kanteerava-like stadium and the land has been located near a 45-feet road. He said the price for 1 sq.ft in the layout is ₹4,900.

In the allocation, priority will be given to farmers who have lost land to the project. In connection to this layout, as per directions of Supreme Court, BDA has acquired 3,069 acres. In 17 villages, 18,000 people lost land. As a first priority, 40% of sites in the layout will be allocated to them. The sites will be allocated in their own land which they parted with for the project. If it is not possible to provide sites on the same land, the BDA will ensure allocation in the same village. About 9.500 sites will be given to land-losers. There are about 4,750 corner sites and as per law, these sites will be e-auctioned. The remaining 10,000 sites will be allocated to the general public.

A view of Shivaram Karanth Layout near Medi Agrahara village in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

SpiceJet passenger gets stuck in lavatory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A passenger onboard a SpiceJet flight operating from Mumbai to Bengaluru on Tuesday was stuck in the lavatory of the aircraft for an hour due to a malfunction of the door lock.

The incident occured on flight SG 286, which took off from Mumbai at 1.58 a.m. and landed at 3.35 a.m. Flight SG 286 was scheduled to depart at 10.55 p.m. on January 15 and scheduled to land at KIA at 12.20 a.m. on January 16. But the flight was delayed. "A passenger unfortunately got stuck inside the lavatory for about an hour on SpiceJet flight operating from Mumbai to Bengaluru, while the aircraft was airborne," said a SpiceJet spokesperson.

SpiceJet said that during the entire journey the crew was in touch with the passenger. Upon arrival, an engineer opened the lavatory door, and the passenger received medical support. "The passenger is being provided a full refund," the airline said.

(With inputs from PTI)

PRR renamed Bengaluru Business Corridor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peripheral Ring Road Project has now be renamed as Bengaluru Business Corridor and no denotification of acquired land will be done. Mr. Shivakumar said there is a demand from farmers to denotify the land but this will not be done as this project has larger benefit to the city.

Not just for Bengaluru Business Corridor, the BDA has decided not to denotify any land after acquisition for any project. Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar informed that a global tender for the project will be called next week. He also said in connection with Bengaluru Business Corridor, the BDA has taken farmers into confidence over compensation. The BDA, citing the SC order, convinced farmers that development authority cannot provide compensation more than it was prescribed in the BDA Act.

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Fill in the blank. 'Bahubali: 63 Insights into _____', written by Devdutt Pattanaik, aims to introduce the religion, its customs, and its worldview to lay readers.
2. Which Indian stand-up comedian authored 'Acts of God,' scheduled for release in the third week of January 2024?
3. T. M. Krishna, an established and globally known Carnatic musician, addressed the impact of caste on Mridangam makers in which of his books?

Visit newsth.live/LitfestQuiz
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Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz.
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Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. SHIVA TRILOGY (AMISH)
2. PAKISTAN
3. CLINT EASTWOOD

Air India Express launches Bengaluru-Ayodhya flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air India Express launched its first non-stop flight connecting Ayodhya with Bengaluru, with the airline commencing operations on Wednesday. The Bengaluru-Ayodhya will operate three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The flight will depart at 7.30 a.m. and arrive at Ayodhya at 10 a.m. The Ayodhya-Bengaluru is also a tri-weekly flight operating on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday with the flight departing Ayodhya at 5 p.m. and arriving at Bengaluru at 5.30 p.m.

Apart from Bengaluru, the airline will be connecting Ayodhya with Kolkata and Delhi. "We inaugurated our Ayodhya-Delhi flight on the very day of Ayodhya airport's opening." said Aloke Singh, managing director, Air India Express.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of students aged 14-18 years enrolled in schools

86.8 in percentage. One-fourth of these students cannot read a Class-2 level text fluently in their regional languages, according to the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). PTI

Fine imposed on Karnataka government by the High Court

5 in ₹ lakh. The petition alleged that the State failed to follow a three-year-old HC order directing the government to implement wage parity between government and government aided educational institutions. PTI

Increase in southwest monsoon rainfall in half of India's tehsils

10 in percentage. Over 55% of tehsils or sub-districts across the country recorded an increase in the southwest monsoon rainfall in the last decade, spanning from 2012 to 2022 due to climate change. PTI

Amount disbursed by government under PLI schemes till October

4,415 in ₹ crore. During 2022-23, the government disbursed ₹2,900 crore under production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for different sectors. PTI

The number of disabled-friendly railway stations

597 About 1,287 escalators have been installed at 372 stations, while 497 stations are equipped with 1,292 lifts, till December 2023, as per Indian Railways. PTI

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On delisting some Kuki-Zomi tribes

What does the representation sent by the National Secretary of the Republican Party of India in Manipur argue? What did the First Backward Classes Commission and the Lokur Commission recommend with respect to the representation of Scheduled Tribes in Manipur?

EXPLAINER

Abhinay Lakshman

The story so far:

The Manipur Government has been asked by the Centre to examine a representation seeking the delisting of certain Kuki and Zomi tribes from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of Manipur. Following this, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced in Imphal that a special committee might be formed to look into it. The representation was sent by Maheshwar Thounaojam, National Secretary of the Republican Party of India (Athawale) in Manipur, who argued for the inclusion of Meiteis in the ST list by seeking the exclusion of certain Kuki and Zomi tribes.

What led to the representation?

This attempt to initiate a process for the possible de-scheduling of certain Kuki and Zomi tribes comes as the State runs into the eighth month of the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei people and the hills-based Kuki-Zo (ST) people. The conflict, that began on May 3, 2023, is said to have been triggered by an order of the Manipur High Court, which directed the State government to send a recommendation on the Meiteis' inclusion in the ST list to the Centre.

Now that a similar request has been forwarded by the Centre to the State government, this time over a representation to delist Kuki and Zomi tribes, there is potential for the widening of existing divides among the communities in the State. Among the key reasons for which Meiteis have argued for ST status has been their inability to own land in the forested hill districts, where only STs can own land. This is the first time members of the Meitei community have tried to argue for their inclusion on the ST list by arguing that certain Kuki and Zomi tribes did not deserve to be on it. This move could also have implications on the criteria used to define groups as STs; unchanged since the Lokur Commission introduced them in 1965.

Fresh trouble: Houses of the Kuki-Zo community which were burnt, in Imphal on August 1, 2023. PTI

What does the representation say?

In Mr. Thounaojam's representation, objections have been raised against the inclusion of three specific entries in the ST list of Manipur – "Any Mizo(Lushai) Tribes", "Zou", and "Any Kuki Tribes" over time. The principal argument being made for the exclusion of these three entries has been that they are not "indigenous" to the land of Manipur. The representation claimed that there had been no mention of these particular tribes residing in the land of Manipur in pre-Independence Censuses. It also said that the ambiguity of "Any Mizo (Lushai) Tribes" and "Any Kuki Tribes" in the ST list has allegedly aided illegal immigrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in obtaining benefits meant for STs in India.

Do these claims hold true?

The argument that these communities were not residing in the land of Manipur at the time the first Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) list was published in 1950 does not hold ground. To begin with, this order had listed three tribes for Manipur – "Any Kuki Tribe", "Any Lushai Tribe" and "Any Naga Tribe", under which respective sub-tribes were to be subsumed. Secondly, there is no empirical evidence, as of yet, to show that these tribes names' presence in the ST list has aided any form of organised illegal immigration into Manipur, beyond individual instances and the rhetoric presented by the Meitei community.

However, the First Backward Classes Commission had noted in its 1955 report that these three broad tribe classifications originated under the British administration, adding that several communities such as Paite and Hmars refused to be identified under the umbrella of Kukis. Accordingly, the Commission had recommended that for tribes of Assam and the hills of Manipur, individual tribe names be added to the ST list instead of umbrella tribes, for which these lists must be redrawn entirely given the dated nature of the information. Subsequently, when the ST list for Manipur was revised in 1956, it included 29 entries with individual tribe names, save for one –"Any Mizo (Lushai) Tribe" – which was retained. This list also included the tribe "Zou". But Mr. Thounaojam's representation has claimed that neither of these entries were specifically recommended by the First Backward Classes Commission.

Again in 1965, when the Lokur Commission prepared its report, it had also noted that there has been a "splintering tendency" among Kuki tribes. "Sub-groups and even clans wish to establish themselves as distinct entities in the political and social structure," the Commission had said of the Kuki tribes. This "splintering tendency" among the Kuki tribes grew over the years, according to representatives of Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur, which eventually led several communities to adopt their unique community's identity. By the end of the century, most people who would be considered under the umbrella of Kukis had already established their independent tribe names that had been added to the ST list over the years. Yet, there remained a need to address the need of a minority number of people who wanted to identify as Kukis, a Zomi representative explained. As a result, in 2002-2003, the entry "Any Kuki Tribes" was added to the ST list of Manipur. But the Bhuria Commission Report of 2002-2004 on Scheduled Tribes had observed that this particular addition had led to confusion about who would be classified under this entry. It had thus recommended mentioning tribe names in the ST list in order to nip "inter-tribe differences" in the bud.

THE GIST

- The Manipur Government has been asked by the Centre to examine a representation seeking the delisting of certain Kuki and Zomi tribes from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of Manipur.
- This is the first time members of the Meitei community have tried to push for their inclusion on the ST list by arguing that certain Kuki and Zomi tribes did not deserve to be on it.
- There is no empirical evidence, as of yet, to show that these tribes names' presence in the ST list has aided any form of organised illegal immigration into Manipur, beyond individual instances and the rhetoric presented by the Meitei community.

Where do China-Taiwan relations stand?

Why did the island of Nauru shift its diplomatic relations from Taiwan to China? What is the 1992 consensus? Do the younger generation of Taiwan identify with China?

Gunjan Singh

The story so far:

On January 13, Taiwan concluded its democratic elections. Lai Ching-te of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), who was the Vice President under Tsai Ing-wen, whom China has called the "troublemaker", is the newly elected President of Taiwan. This is a third term for the DPP, with the win being perceived as a major blow to China. However, within days of the results, Nauru, a small island nation, has announced that it is shifting its relations from Taipei to Beijing.

What brought on the shift?

Nauru's decision is very much on expected lines. A number of countries have shifted their diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing during the previous Taiwan President, Tsai Ing-wen's term in office. Beijing has followed a pattern of luring smaller nations with the promise of financial investment and infrastructure development. Since Ms. Tsai and DPP came to power in 2016, the diplomatic space for Taiwan has consistently reduced. Today, just 11 countries recognise Taiwan while in 2016, this number stood at 22. The DPP is perceived as a pro-independence party and thus the pressure from Beijing and the pace at which Taiwan has been losing allies is increasing. This is also because Taiwan is unable to match China's deep pockets.

What is status of China-Taiwan ties?

One of the main reasons for China's assertiveness is the refusal of Ms. Tsai to accept the '1992 consensus'. The 1992 consensus acknowledges that there is 'one China'. It was agreed upon between the Kuomintang (KMT, pro status-quo party) and the Communist Party of China (CPC). However, Ms. Tsai has publicly said that this consensus goes against the 'Taiwanese consensus'. There has also been a rise in 'Taiwanisation', where the younger generation of Taiwan do not feel any historical affinity with China. This generation recognises itself as Taiwanese and have grown up in a democratic political environment and do not feel any bond with the historical narratives of a united China. All these developments have intensified aggressiveness towards Taiwan under Chinese President Xi Jinping. Rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and reunification of Taiwan are two very prominent and essential goals for Mr. Xi. China had consistently made comments and indicated its displeasure of the DPP, given its pro-independence stance. In his New Year's address, Mr. Xi had remarked that "reunification with Taiwan is inevitable" and Taiwan is a "sacred territory". However, DPP's electoral victory is a clear indication that the Taiwanese people are not in a hurry for reunification.

What about democracy in Taiwan?

Taiwan conducted its first democratic elections in 1996. The elections happened under the shadow of Chinese ire with missiles being fired across the Taiwan Straits. Since then, the democracy has only strengthened and regularised. What is interesting is that Beijing had been aggressive during the 2020 elections too, underscoring its discontent towards Ms. Tsai. Beijing has been uncomfortable with Taiwanese democracy, as it considers the island a renegade province. The fact that Taiwan has a functioning democracy strengthens the idea of a separate Taiwanese political identity which is in complete contrast to the one-party system in China. It also challenges the notion that the CPC is the only political option for the Chinese people.

What next?

Even though it is clear that Taiwan's future path under Mr. Lai and DPP's tenure is going to be tougher, it is a major win for Taiwan's democratic future. The election results will be clearly regarded as a challenge to China's political aspirations of reunification.

Though Mr. Xi has denied any set timeline for ultimate reunification, the pressure on Taiwan is only going to increase. When one juxtaposes this with the intensifying nationalisms on both sides of the straits, the situation will be difficult and Mr. Lai will have to be adept and manoeuvre these various diplomatic challenges.

Gunjan Singh is Assistant Professor at OP Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

- Nauru, a small island nation, has announced that it is shifting its diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing.
- Beijing has followed a pattern of luring smaller nations with the promise of financial investment and infrastructure development.
- In his New Year's address, Mr. Xi Jinping had remarked that "reunification with Taiwan is inevitable" and Taiwan is a "sacred territory".

From Page One

II PU exam from March 1, Class X from March 25

March 16: Economics; March 18: Geography, Biology; March 20: Sociology, Electronics, Computer Science; March 21: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Urdu, Sanskrit, French, and on March 22 Hindi examination will be held.

SSLC exam

On March 25, First Language Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, English, and Sanskrit exams will be held.

Social Science exam will be on March 27; Science, Political Science, Hindustani Music, Carnatic Music will be on March 30.

Maths and Sociology exams will be on April 2; Economics, Elements of Electrical Engineering, Elements of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering-2, Elements of Mechanical Engineering-4, Engineering Graphics-2, Elements of Electronics Engineering-4, Elements of Electronics Engineering, Programming in ANSI 'C', Elements of Computer Science will be held on April 2.

Third Language Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani and Tulu will be on April 4, and on April 6 Second Language English and Kannada exams will be held.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 18, we have an interview with Hemamalini Maiya, the managing partner of MTR, who talks about this 100-year-old iconic restaurant of Bengaluru that has only gained in popularity over time with its signature dishes and draws at least 2,000 people every day.

State yet again rated among best performers in start-up ranking

Annual exercise by DPIIT assesses performance of States and UTs in seven reform areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as one of the best performers in the fourth edition of the States' Start-up Ranking, a yearly capacity building exercise by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The other best performers include Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Karnataka has bagged the top honour. The exercise was launched in 2018. The results were announced by Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on National Start-up day on Tuesday.

The exercise assesses the performance of States and Union Territories across seven reform areas divided into 25 action points.

The seven reform areas include institutional support, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, access to market, incubation and mentorship support, funding support, capacity building of enablers and roadmap to sustainable future.

The 'best performer' title is awarded to States and Union Territories with model State start-up ecosystems that could be benchmark for other States to follow. While the Bengaluru, the State capital, also adorns the title of 'India's start-up capital', there has been push from the government and other ecosystem players to encourage more start-up clusters in the State under 'Beyond Bengaluru'. Mysuru, Hubbali, and Mangaluru have seen some of these emerging clusters.

The Karnataka government has also introduced schemes like the ELEVATE programme which offers up to ₹50 lakh for innovative early stage start-ups for no equity in return and the ELEVATE - Unnati programme for start-ups with founders from SC/ST communities. The government also recently introduced preferential market access for start-ups registered in the State.

KSRTC appoints 264 technical assistants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), after nearly eight years, recruited 264 new candidates for the post of Technical Assistant on Wednesday. Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy distributed the appointment letters at the KSRTC head office in Shantinagar.

According to the KSRTC, initially, the corporation decided to hire 720 candidates for the post, but on October, 13, 2023, the government gave permission to recruit 300 candidates. As per the KSRTC (Cadres and Recruitment) Regulations, candidates who had secured 30 or more marks in CAT exam were eligible for selection. There were about 554 candidates. After selection, the KSRTC prepared a final list of 264 candidates and this was done through merit-cum-roaster basis.

In a first, candidates were given opportunity to select depots through computerised counselling and posting was carried out in a transparent manner. The hiring process was completed in three months. The training period for candidates was reduced to one year. And monthly stipend for training that was fixed at ₹9,100 has been increased to ₹14,000.

Karnataka signs MoUs worth ₹22,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka signed business and technology contracts worth ₹22,000 crore with seven companies on day two of the World Economic Forum 2024 being held currently at Davos.

According to a statement released by the State government, data centre solutions provider Web Werks signed an MoU with Karnataka for setting up a data centre park at an outlay of ₹20,000 crore. The company also expressed its intention to establish a cutting-edge connectivity hub to featuring hyperscaler data centres capabilities in the city.

With Hitachi

Hitachi signed an MoU on economic development through work in the rural sector, healthcare, education, and panchayat e-governance to create opportunities for people in the State.

The company is planning to start M-Star Telemedicine Deployment through Hitachi MGRM Net, as per the statement.

Tech major Microsoft also signed an MoU with the government on working towards skilling and governance initiatives. Under Microsoft's digital skilling program, Microsoft RISE, the company is proposed to execute a digital skilling initiative aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for under-served youth in India, with a focus on young girls/women, job seekers, individuals with disabilities, nano entrepreneurs, and those in regions with low workforce participation, aspirational districts, remote, and tribal areas.

Four more firms

Additionally, four other companies have entered into MOUs with the State, collectively valued at over ₹2,000 crore.

A high-power delegation headed by M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, at the World Economic Forum also held talks with heads of Volvo Group, Nestle, Sony, Inox Group, HP, Lulu Group, Honeywell, Takeda Pharma, Coinbase, BL Agro, Till Man Global, and others.

Traffic on Tumakuru Road hit due to closure of Peenya flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The closure of the Peenya flyover (Dr. Shivakumar Swami flyover), by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), caused some confusion among commuters on the busy Tumakuru Road on Wednesday morning.

The flyover was closed at 11 p.m. on Tuesday for the NHAI to perform repairs and retrofitting of the Bengaluru-Nelamangala viaduct which belongs to NH 4. The NHAI is also also carrying out load tests on 240 prestressed cables which are newly added.

As a result, traffic snarls were reported from the areas surrounding the flyover, like Goraguntepalya, Peenya, Jalahalli and Dasarahalli.

"For over a year now, there is only confusion surrounding that flyover. I was relieved when it was opened for traffic, but today morning on my way to work, I realised they had closed the flyover again. Without prior planning, I had to spend around 15 extra minutes in the traffic," said Mithun Rajesh, a resident of Yeshwantpur.

The Peenya flyover has been closed for maintenance till January 19. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) had issued traffic diversions last week for both, vehicles travelling from Nelamangala towards Bengaluru city and vehicles moving from CMTI junction towards Nelamangala.

The traffic, however, subsided after the morning peak hour. "As all the vehicles had to go below the flyover, there was some congestion and more traffic than usual during the peak hour. But it was not so severe that it affected the movement of vehicles," said M. N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Traffic movement on the flyover will resume at 11 a.m on January 19.

Apple opens new office at Minsk Square

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apple, the Cupertino-based tech giant, announced the opening of a new office at Minsk Square in the city on Wednesday.

The 15-floor office will house up to 1,200 employees and will also have a dedicated lab space, areas for collaboration and wellness, and a cafe.

The office, the latest addition to the company's corporate office footprint in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Gurugram, would represent another important milestone in Apple's more than 25-year history in India, said Apple in a statement.

"Apple is thrilled to expand in India with our new office in the heart of Bengaluru. This dynamic city is already home to so many of our talented teams, including software engineering and hardware technologies, operations, customer support, and more," said an Apple spokesperson.

"Like everything we do at Apple, this workspace is created to foster innovation, creativity, connection, and team collaborations," he added.

2 held for vandalising KSRTC buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension prevailed for some time in the early hours of Wednesday when a gang of five armed men intercepted two KSRTC buses, smashed the windows and threatened the drivers near Majestic.

The buses belonging to Mysuru and Hunsur were reaching Majestic when the accused, travelling in an autorickshaw in an inebriated state, attacked the buses before fleeing the spot, creating fear among the passengers.

On the run

Based on a complaint, the Cottonpet police rushed to the spot and arrested two people, identified as Imran and Arif, within hours while efforts were on to track down others who are still on the run. We suspect that road rage could be the reason behind the incident but are yet to ascertain why they carried weapons in the autorickshaw, a police officer said.

Philately exhibition on Ramayana

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A philately exhibition on Ramayana organised by the Karnataka Postal Circle and curated by N. Sridevi, philatelist, commenced here at Sandesh Museum on Museum Road on Wednesday. The exhibition will be on till February 15 between 9.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. Entry is free.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby notified that, my client is proposing to purchase the Schedule Property from one M/s. ABH Infrastructure represented by its Partner Sri. Hanumantharayappa and M/s. Guru Punvaani Properties represented by its Authorised Partner Mr. Sanjay Kumar. Any person's having any claim's over the Schedule Property or any objection's for the purchase of the Schedule Property by our clients may lodge his/her/their claim's and objections to the undersigned with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of publication hereof.

If no objection's/claim's are received with documentary proof within the stipulated period, my client will proceed for completion of the said transaction of purchasing the Schedule Property as being free from any or all claim's, objection's, right's, encumbrance's etc.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being undeveloped industrially converted land in Sy. No 32 & 35, earlier portion of Sy. No. 180/1, much earlier portion of Sy No. 180, "Plot No. 32" measuring on the East 112 feet 6 inches, west 112 feet 6 inches, North 110 feet, South 110 feet, and "Plot No. 35" measuring on the East 112 feet 6 inches, west 112 feet 6 inches, North 110 feet, South 110 feet, duly converted to non-agricultural industrial purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 14.12.2021, Application No. 221571, passed by the Dupty Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, situated at Kumbalagodu Village, Kengeri Hobbil, Bengaluru South Taluk, now within the jurisdiction of kumbalagodu Village Panchayath, together with all right, appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

For Plot No. 32- East by : Road, West by: Plot No 35, North by : Plot No. 33, South by: Plot No. 31

For Plot No. 35- East by : Plot No 32, West by : Road, North by : Plot No. 34, South by: Plot No. 36

TAYANNA P., Advocate
No. 19, 3rd Cross, Lalbagh Road, Bengaluru – 560027. Contact: 9449840118
e-mail: P.tayanna@gmail.com

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(Combined Office Building Campus)
Telephone No.0326-2313339 e-mail: eenhdhanbad-jhr@nic.in

Corrigendum

Tender Reference No. NH/Dhanbad/11/2023-24 dated 09.01.2024 of "Invitation for Bids (IFB), National Competitive Bidding" as published in Newspaper vide PR No. 315570 Road(23-24)D may be read as Tender Reference No. NH/Dhanbad/11/2023-24 dated 08.01.2024.

But for the above changes, all other Terms & Conditions as published in the above cited tender notice remain unaltered.

Executive Engineer
NH Division, Dhanbad

PR.NO.316302 Road(23-24):D

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **Sri.V.K.MOHAN**, S/o late S.M.Varadarajan, his wife **Smt.HEMAMALINI KRISHNAMOHAN** and their daughter **Ms.RAJASRI MOHAN**, residing at the Schedule property.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s in writing (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.10/3, PID No.49-52-10/3, measuring East to West 37ft and North to South 97 ft, with a house building thereon, situated at Karanikara Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:

East by : Property of Sri.S.V.Jagannath
West by : Property of Sri.S.M.Varadarajan
North by : Property of Sri.K.R.Srinivasa and others
South by : Vani Vilas Road

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಕಂದಾವಿ/ಸಿಆರ್.188/2024–25/ಎ8 ದಿ: 08–01–2024

ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ನೋಟೀಸು

(ಕ.ಪೌ.ನಿ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1976ರ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 114ಎ ಪ್ರಕಾರ)

ವಿಷಯ: ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಬೋಳೂರು ಬಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂಬ್ರ 62/2, 54/10, 62/4, 62/6, 62/2, 62/4, 62/3ಎ ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 1–15.50 ಎಕ್ರೆ (4673.689 ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್) ಇದರ ನಕಲಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ಖಾತಾ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಿಯೋನಿಲ್ಲ ಮಣಿ ಇವರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 06–01–2024.

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಬೋಳೂರು ಬಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂಬ್ರ 62/2, 54/10, 62/4, 62/6, 62/2, 62/4, 62/3ಎ ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 1–15.50 ಎಕ್ರೆ (4673.689 ಚದರ ಮೀಟರ್) ರ ಖಾತಾ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿಯಂತೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ **PID 1b_DN8025BD_2_16/16** ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಖಾತೆಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಹಿಡಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದ್ರಿ ದೂರು ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ 18–01–2024 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕೊಠಡಿ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಇವರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಿಗದಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದವರು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸದ್ರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವರೇ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಿಯೋನಿಲ್ಲ ಮಣಿ, 1–N–33–2882/4, ಶಾಂತಿ ಲೇನ್, ಕೋಡಿಕಲ್ ರೋಡ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. – ದೂರುದಾರರು. (2) ಲೆಸ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಭು, ಜಿನ್ ವಿಲ್‌ಫ್ರೆಡ್ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ, 59, Chesney Nilgiri, Ethiraj Salai Egmore, Chennai- 600 008. (3) ಡೆಸ್ಮಂಡ್ ಪ್ರಭು, ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (4) ಜೋ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ, ಜಿನ್ ವಿಲ್‌ಫ್ರೆಡ್ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ, ಜೆರೋಸ ಕಾನ್ವೆಂಟ್, ಪಾಂಡೇಶ್ವರ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (5) ಹೆರುಲ್ ಪಿಂಟೋ ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (6) ಎನಿಡ್ ಪ್ರಭು, ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (7) ಶಿರೀನ್ ಮರಿಯಾ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜ ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (8) ಸುನಿಲ್ ಆ್ಯಂಟನಿ ಪ್ರಭು ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (9) ಸೋನ್‌ಜಾಯ್ ಜೋಸೆಫ್ ಪ್ರಭು ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (10) ಶಾಲೆಟ್ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು.(11) ಚರಿಷ್ಮ ಮಾರ್ಗರೆಟ್ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (12) ಮೆಲಿಸ್ಸ ಡಿ'ಕೋಸ್ಟ ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (13) ನಿಲೇಶ್ ಆಲಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಪ್ರಭು. ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (14) ನಿಶಾ ಆಲಿಸೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಭು ಉರ್ವ ಸ್ಟೋರ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/1117/23-24 dt: 17.01.2024

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MONIKA Attri spouse of Lawejeet Attri, R/at SMQ-27/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63, have changed by name from Monika Attri to Monika vide Affidavit dated 17/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, B'luru.

I, LAWEJEET Attri , R/at SMQ-27/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanaka Bengaluru-63, have changed my son's name from Reyansh to Reyansh Attri vide Affidavit dated 11/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, NIRMALA Kumari, spouse of Sanjay Kumar Vashistha, R/at SMQ-248/1, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63, have changed by name from Nirmala Kumari to Nirmala Devi, vide Affidavit dated 30/12/2023 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, ARUN Kumar K V, R/at SMQ-38/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63, have changed my son's name from A Adwaith to Adwaith.A vide Affidavit dated 11/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, K Venu Gopalan Nair dependent of Arun Kumar K V, R/at SMQ-38/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63, have changed by name from K Venu Gopalan Nair to K Venugopalan Nair, vide Affidavit dated 11/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, AMBIKA Nair V R dependent of Arun Kumar K V, R/at SMQ-38/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63, have changed by name from Ambika Nair V R to Ambika Devi, vide Affidavit dated 11/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, P B Athira Arun spouse of Arun Kumar K V R/at SMQ-38/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-63 have changed by name from P B Athira Arun to Athira P B, vide affidavit dated 11/01/2024 before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client Sri.Ambrish.A.V is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property. The original Sale deed, dated 30.06.1995 Document number 2970/1995-96 registered at KR Puram Sub-registrar office, Bangalore, executed by Sri.D.Maddurappa and others, in favour of Sri.P.Balaraju, and Sale deed dated 27.12.1995 document Number 10084/1995-96 registered at KR Puram Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru executed by Sri.P.Balaraju in favour of Sri.D.A.Thimmaiah for the land bearing Sy.No.38, measuring 0Acre -29 guntas situated at Dommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru are misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 11.05.2023 online vide report no. 0559294/2023.

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 15 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at he/their own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

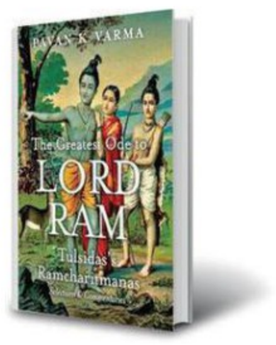
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.38, measuring 0-29 guntas situated at Dommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on

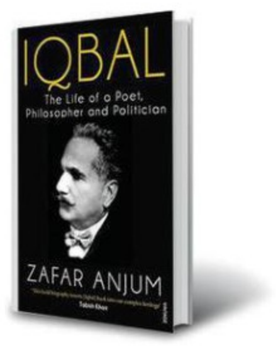
BOUNDARIES:

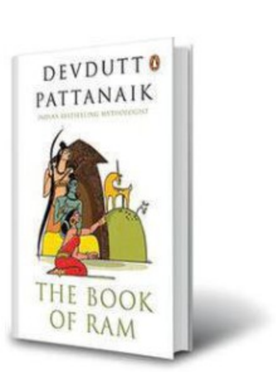
East by: Subramani's Land
West by: Bhagyamma's Land
North by: Remaining portion of the same survey number
South by : Water Channal

Aswath B - Advocate
#31, 5th cross, 23rd Main Road, J. P. Nagar 2nd Phase
Bangalore - 560078
Contact No: 9901944099
E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Another view: A Hindu woman devotee prays to the bricks reading "Shree Ram" (Lord Ram). AP

From Iqbal to Chakbast, an address to Lord Ram through the centuries

With anecdotes, prayers and stories, a host of writers including Devdutt Pattanaik trace the abiding presence of the god in mythologies, Urdu and Hindi poetry and his relevance in contemporary times

Ziya Us Salam

Around a century ago, famous Urdu poet Mohammed Iqbal, who, wrote 'Sare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan hamara', called Ram Imam-e-Hind. The expression gained currency during the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi movement with votaries of the Ram Temple reminding the Muslim community of the august status Iqbal had for Ram. Of course, secular Muslims were not found lagging in this bid for appropriation of Ram. They too quoted Iqbal with convenience. Amid all this what is often forgotten is that Ram has been celebrated in many literary works for centuries. Though not as popular as Krishna with Raskhan, Ram's has been an abiding presence in Urdu *shairi* or Hindi *kavita* (poetry) and modern English literature.

If Zafar Anjum reminded us of the greatness of Iqbal in his work, *Iqbal: The Life of a Poet, Philosopher and Politician*, it would have been incomplete without talking of the inclusive nature of the greatness of Ram by alluding to the expression 'Imam-e-Hind' which formed part of the *nazm* where he called Ram the spiritual leader of India. Iqbal wrote, 'Labrez hai sharāb-e-haqīqat se jam-e-hind/Sab falsafi hain khitta-i-maghrib ke Ram-i-Hind/Yeh Hindiyon ke fikr-i-falak ras ka hai asar/Rifat men asman se bhi ooncha hai bam-i-Hind/ Is des men huey hain hazaron malak sarisht/Mashoor jinke dam se hai duniya mein nam-i-Hind/Hai Ram ke wujood Pe Hindostan ko naz/Ahle nazar samajhte hain usko imam-i-Hind!'. (The cup of Hind overflows with the wine of truth/Philosophers of the Western world are its devotees/The mysticism of her philosophers makes Hind's star soar above all constellations/Thousands of angels have descended to proclaim Hind's name before the world/And proud of his existence the discerning eye sees in Ram, a prophet).

Gandhi and Ram

On a little lower note flowed Akbar Allahabadi's tryst with the soil of the land and the presence of Ram. Soon after Mahatma Gandhi assumed charge of the freedom movement after his arrival from South Africa, Akbar is reported to have stated, 'Bhai Gandhi ka nihayat hi muqaddas kaam hai; Rampuri saath hai aur Ram hi ka naam hai'. (Gandhi's work is extremely sincere; the Rampuris are with him, and Ram's name prevails.)

Then we had Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, a freedom fighter and a noted Urdu poet who wrote, *Sri Ram Chandar se Khitab* (Address to Shri Ram Chandar). In this, the Maulana called Ram a symbol of a living Indian civilisation. Addressing the avatar of Vishnu, he wrote, 'Na to naaquus se hai aur na asnaam se hai/Hind ki garmi-e-hungama tere naam se hai'. (Neither because of conch nor by its idols/The excitement and love thriving in India is by your name).

No discussion of Urdu poets' fascination for Ram can be complete without a mention of Brij Narain Chakbast. His *Ramayan ka Eik Scene* is a masterclass in pure emotion, in the poet's depiction of an obedient son leaving his mother's house, taking nothing with him except blessings.

The persona

Talking of Ram's mother, Kaushalya, Devdutt Pattanaik fills in details with admirable ease in his biography *The Book of Ram*. Beginning with the story of Dashrath and his three wives, he writes, "Dashrath had three wives but no children. So he conducted a yagna and invoked the gods who gave him a magic potion...In time the queens gave birth to four sons. Ram was the eldest, born to the chief queen Kaushalya, Bharat was second, born to Dashrath's favourite queen, Kaikeyi, and Lakshmana and Shatrughna were twin sons of the third queen, Sumitra."

Ram completed his early education under Rishi Vasishth. He was once asked to defend Rishi Vishwamitra's hermitage from an attack by demons known as Rakshasas. Ram killed the demons. As a reward, the rishi taught him magical chants that turned mere arrows into powerful missiles. The rishi, we are informed by Pattanaik, took Ram to Mithila, the capital of Videha. Here he found Ahilya, wife of Gautam. Ahilya had been turned into a stone for being unfaithful to him. Ram stepped on the stone that was Ahilya who immediately came to life. Such was the purity of his character. Replete with such anecdotes, Pattanaik's book is a primer for acquaintance with the persona of Ram. A Telugu prayer, recalled by Pattanaik, sums up the character beautifully. It says, "Sweeter than sugar, tastier than curd/ Sweeter indeed than honey is the name of Ram/Constant repetition of this sweet name/Gives one the taste of divine nectar/Therefore, chant the name of Ram constantly".

Noted author Pavan K. Varma completes the picture with his book *The Greatest Ode to Lord Ram: Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas*. Varma writes with characteristic flair, "Tulsidas spent the early years of his life in Ayodhya, the birthplace of Ram. He began to write Ramcharitmanas in 1574, on Ram Navami, the birth date of Ram. After writing the first three sections of the book, he wrote the other four in Kashi, for which he had to depart because of a dispute with one of the religious heads in Ayodhya...There are many stories of how Ram and Lakshman, and Hanuman, appeared before him and blessed him." The noble spirit animating the story of Ram is like Chitrakoot, where Ram, Sita and Lakshman spent months of their 14-year banishment. "The lush forest around Chitrakoot," Tulsi says, "is symbolic of the deep love in the midst of which Ram and Sita reside."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. A. Aluwalia, Ranchi, wants to know the exact meaning of 'eventuate'."

" 'Eventuate' means 'to result in, to come to pass'. This is a formal word; some consider it a pompous word. It was used for the first time in the eighteenth century in America. It had a hostile reception both in America and Britain. A British writer called it 'another horrible word which is fast getting into our language through the provincial press'. Fowler said that 'eventuality' and 'eventuate' were 'flabby journalese'. But no voice was powerful enough to prevent the word from quietly entering the dictionary! The word is found in standard dictionaries. But it is used generally in scientific writing. It is better to avoid it in non-scientific writing as it invites the wrath of good writers even today. A sentence like 'His speech eventuated in splitting the party' would be considered rather pompous. 'Resulted in' is better, simpler and clearer."

"Miss Padmini, Dandapani Street, T.Nagar, Madras wants to know whether (a) the word 'fulsome' is used correctly in the sentence, 'Mr. Venkataraman paid fulsome compliments to Dr. Najibullah's policy; (b) the word 'intraneous' exists."

" 'Fulsome' has negative connotations. It doesn't mean 'copious', 'abundant'. Most people in India and some native speakers also use the word in this sence. 'Fulsome praise' is 'excessive and insincere praise'. It is something offensive to good taste. There was a time when it meant 'full', 'copious'. Now it means 'cloying, excessive, disgusting by excess'.

I was embarrassed by his fulsome tributes.

The word 'intraneous' doesn't exist in the language. 'Extraneous' is there but not 'intraneous'."

"Mr. G.N.G. Prakash Rao, FCI, Tadepalligudem, wants to know the meaning of 'schmooze'."

'Schmooze' means 'idle talk, gossip'. It is also used as a verb.

He loves to schmooze.

'Sch' is pronounced 'sh' as in 'shall'; 'mooze' rhymes with 'booze'. 'Schmooze' is an American slang word. It is from yiddish."

"Mr. S. K. Dey, Tribeni, Hoogly, wants to know the difference between 'colour' and

'hue'."

" 'Colour' is the word that is generally used. 'Hue' is a literary word. It is also used in a technical sense to mean 'a shade of colour, the attribute of colours that permits them to be classed as red, yellow, etc.'

The room is painted in pale hue of blue and green.

I am willing to discuss views of every hue.

'Hue' is from old English, 'hiw', 'appearance'. 'Hue' in 'hue and cry' is a different word. It is from old French 'hu', outcry.

There was a hue and cry when the minister made that remark.

Published in The Hindu on October 2, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The German Empire was established on this day in 1871. Here is a quiz on the event, and other incidents that happened on January 18

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

The history of the German Empire is commonly divided into three periods. If the first one is the German Reich from 1871 to 1918, name the other two periods, between 1918 and 1945.

QUESTION 2

Born on January 18, 1904, he was an English-American actor known for films like *His Girl Friday* and *The Philadelphia Story*. Name the actor.

QUESTION 3

Peter Mark Roget was born on this day in 1779. He is best known for publishing this widely used English-language synonym dictionary. What is it called?

QUESTION 4

Born on this day, he was an American lawyer and statesman who served as the U.S. Secretary of State under Presidents William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Millard Fillmore. He was among the three members of the Great Triumvirate along with Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun. Identify him.

QUESTION 5

Willie O'Ree is a Canadian former professional ice hockey player. On January 18, 1958, he debuted in a National Hockey League game. His debut is known for being a milestone in the hockey league. What is it?

Visual question:
The creator of this fictional character was born on this day in 1882. Name the creator, and both characters in the image.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: The christened name of Muhammad Ali and his birthplace. **Ans: Cassius Marcellus Clay; Louisville, Kentucky, USA**

2. This incident acted as a catalyst for Clay to take up boxing. **Ans: The theft of his bicycle and Clay was determined to 'whup' the thief**

3. The Olympics category in which Clay won a gold medal. **Ans: The Light Heavyweight category in the 1960 Rome Olympics**

4. The contribution of Nation of Islam's Elijah Muhammad to the boxer's persona. **Ans: He gave Clay the name 'Muhammad Ali'**

5. Ali could not fight between March 1967 and October 1970 because of this reason. **Ans: Refusal to serve in the Vietnam War**

6. Ali was mocking this fighter before the famous 'Thrilla in Manila'. **Ans: Joe Frazier**

7. This champion was Ali's sparring partner for the 'Rumble in the Jungle' fight. **Ans: Larry Holmes**

Visual: The name of the album. **Ans: I Am The Greatest**

Early Birds: Abhiroop Bose| Sadhan Kumar Panda| K.N. Viswanathan

Word of the day

Gob:
a man who serves as a sailor; lump of slimy stuff; informal terms for the mouth

Synonyms: sea dog, seafarer, seaman, mariner, trap

Usage: *He should have kept his gob shut.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/gobpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gɒb/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 kV Bannerghatta (Gollahalli) MUSS. The areas are: Weavers Colony 1st to 9th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Pillaganahalli, Gottigere, MLA Layout, Bhora Layout, Ashram Road, Kammanahalli, Balaji Garden Layout, Basavanapura, Tejaswini Nagar Phase 2, Mylasandra, Hommedevanahalli, Vaddarapalya, Hullahalli, and surrounding areas.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 18	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:14
RISE 12:07	SET 00:02
FRIDAY, JAN. 19	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:14
RISE 12:50	SET 00:57
SATURDAY, JAN. 20	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:15
RISE 13:37	SET 01:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Brigade Foundation begins restoration work of Venkatappa Art Gallery

It will include repairing the infrastructure, including public amenities, and enhancing gallery displays to help preserve artworks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much anticipated restoration work of Venkatappa Art Gallery kicked off on Wednesday. The restoration work will be carried out by the Brigade Foundation of the Brigade Group as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

"The restoration work will include repairing the museum's infrastructure, including civil repairs, public amenities, and enhancing gallery displays as per required standards to help preserve artworks. It will also include improving external landscaping. All this will be done while retaining the museum's original character," a statement from Brigade Foundation said.

Following the submission and approval of a restoration proposal several months ago, extensive consultations were held with artists before the plan was finalised. The restoration work is expected to be completed in 10 months' time.

"The goal is to restore the gallery's historical appeal while also giving it new landscaping with a fresh and updated look. I have full confidence that the revitalised gallery will make a significant contribution to enhancing the existing rich history of art and culture in Karnataka," said M.R. Jaishankar, executive chairman, Brigade Group and Lifetime Trustee, Brigade Foundation.

An artist's impression of the renovated Venkatappa Art Gallery in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Consultations were held with artists before the plan was finalised. The restoration work is expected to be completed in 10 months' time

Officially notified

Expressing his happiness that work on the restoration of Venkatappa Art Gallery had already begun just over two months after the State government signed a Memorandum of Uunderstanding with the Brigade Group, Tourism Minister H.K. Patil said he was confident that the work will be completed by Dasara this year.

"In Karnataka, there are over 25,000 monuments, but only 800 have been officially notified. The remaining 24,000 odd monuments are yet to be notified for protection and restoration under the Adopt a Monument initiative by the government. Our objective is to cover at least 5,000 monuments in the next five years, and we encourage corporates to come forward and participate in these projects. This collective effort will contribute to the preservation of the State's rich heritage," Mr. Patil said.

Protest held against proposed township at Kunigal stud farm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hundreds of people took out a march in Kunigal, about 70 km from here, on Wednesday, protesting against the proposal to build an integrated township in place of the historical Kunigal Stud Farm, started during the reign of Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan during the 1780s.

Protesters from all walks of life and political leaders cutting across party lines took part in the rally that culminated at the tahsildar's office where they submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The protest was organised by Heritage Kunigal Stud Farm Protection Committee.

A protest march was taken out at Kunigal town in Tumakuru district on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The protest was triggered by the announcement of Urban Development Minister B.S. Suresh last month that an integrated township would be developed in place of the stud farm. To pave way for the proposal, the State government had also cancelled the tender to handover the stud farm to the successful bidder after the completion of tendering process. The tenure of the current lease holder United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders expired in 2023.

The protection committee urged the State government to drop the proposal to have an integrated township and conserve the heritage stud farm for posterity. Among other demands, the protesters said that the vast land belonging to stud farm should not be allotted to any industrial or commercial ventures and no building should be approved. The township can be located in any other part of Kunigal that will pave way for development, it said. The State government should write to the Centre to declare the stud farm as one of the heritage sites in the country, said BJP Tumakuru district V-P H.D. Rajesh Gowda.

Health Dept. sets up COVID-19 helpline

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To ensure the current decreasing trend of COVID-19 cases in the State is maintained, the State Health Department has set up a COVID helpline. People can call the existing Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) helpline - 18004258330 - for general COVID-related queries.

In an advisory issued on Wednesday, Health Commissioner Randeep D. said all elderly individuals (above 60 years), those with comorbidities, pregnant women, and lactating mothers should protect themselves and take all necessary precautionary measures to keep respiratory illnesses and COVID at bay during this season. All the elderly with ILI symptoms should be mandatorily tested for COVID.

All patients under home isolation should be monitored regularly by medical officers and staff of jurisdictional PHC/UPHC/Namma Clinic and Chief Health Officer (CHO) at sub-centre level, the Commissioner said.

Pointing out that comorbid asymptomatic persons staying with COVID positive persons should be considered as 'high-risk group', he said they should be clinically evaluated for their comorbid conditions and suitably managed.

Besides, the State Death Audit Committee should audit COVID deaths regularly and submit the audit reports with necessary recommendations to the Health Commissionerate. "As a norm, there should not be a lag of more than five unaudited COVID deaths at any point of time," he said.

Following recommendations by the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee, the Commissioner directed prison authorities to ensure persons staying in prisons follow Covid Appropriate Behavior and respiratory etiquette.

State reports 87 new cases and one death

The State on Wednesday reported 87 new cases and one death. An 85-year-old male patient from Mysuru, who was diagnosed with SARI, died at a private hospital on January 12.

With this, the total number of deaths since December 15 touched 31. With 165 recoveries in the last 24 hours, the number of active cases reduced to 672. Of these, 30 are being treated in hospitals including five in ICUs.

THE HINDU GROUP

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INBRIEF

BEL receives orders worth ₹1,034.31 crore

Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has received an order from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. for a value of ₹695 crore for the supply of spares related to missile systems.

The company has also received additional orders worth ₹339.31 crore since the last disclosure on December 26, 2023, and these orders pertain to the Combat Management System, Composite Communication System, Transmit/ Receive Modules, Mobile Autonomous Stabilisation System and other spares/services.

With the above, BEL has received cumulative orders of ₹27,647.31 crore in the current financial year.

Digitronics bags order to supply DC-DC converters

Digitronics, a JSC Group enterprise, has bagged an order from Bharat Electronics Ltd. to manufacture and supply fully indigenised DC-DC converters and EMI Filter for use in LCA Tejas Mk 1. Under the contract, Digitronics will design, manufacture, and supply 1,500 sets of DC-DC converters for use in the pylon interface box (PIB) for LCA Tejas Mk 1.

Yathindra's statement reignites leadership issue in Congress

'Siddaramaiah will continue as CM for five years without any problems if Congress gets highest number of seats in LS polls'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

In a statement that has reignited the leadership issue, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, former MLA and son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has said that his father will "continue as Chief Minister for the next five years without any problems" if people support the party in the coming Lok Sabha elections and ensure the highest number of seats for the Congress.

The statement gains significance in the light of the continued debate on whether Mr. Siddaramaiah will complete the full term as Chief Minister or cede space to his deputy D.K. Shivakumar after two-and-a-half years.

Yathindra Siddaramaiah

Addressing a gathering in Holenarsipur taluk of Hassan district on Tuesday, Mr. Yathindra said his party had promised people five guarantees before the elections, which it has met already within a year. "The government is spending ₹56,000 crore every year to implement the five guarantee schemes. Never in the history of the State has such a huge amount been earmarked for the benefit of poor people," he said.

Mr. Yathindra said if the party won the highest number of seats in the coming Lok Sabha polls, the party's morale would go up. "We spent government money on the poor. We need to know that people are in our favour for the good work we did. You have to express it by supporting the party in the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Guarantee schemes

Appealing to the people to strengthen the hands of Mr. Siddaramaiah by supporting the Congress, he said that if the party won the highest seats, Mr. Siddaramaiah would become stronger. "He will continue the guarantee schemes for five years and continue to remain as Chief Minister for five years without any problems," he said.

CM dismisses it

While the Opposition parties were quick to interpret it as a sign of the continued one-upmanship between the two top leaders, the Chief Minister himself dismissed it saying it was all "up to the high command".

No need to twist it: DKS

Mr. Shivakumar, in a statement, said there was no need to twist Mr. Yathindra's words. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he said, "Mr. Yathindra is a responsible leader, there is no need to twist his words or quote him out of context."

"Our government will be strong for five years. Mr. Siddaramaiah is our Chief Minister now and I am the president of the KPCC, both of us will fight the upcoming elections together. We will face the elections under Mr. Siddaramaiah's leadership, there is no doubt about it. There is nothing wrong in aspiring for more and seeking strength from the people. Even I have sought it from people of my region," he said.

Asked about BJP's comments that things were being designed within the Congress to keep him away from power, Mr. Shivakumar retorted, "Let the BJP first fix its own internal party issues."

Rajanna's remark 'childish': BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP on Wednesday described as "childish" the remarks of Minister K.N. Rajanna that the statue of Ram Lalla that had been earlier kept in Ayodhya looked like "toys in a touring tent".

Addressing a press meet here, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said such remarks that aim to hurt Hindu religious sentiments would turn out to be the beginning of the destruction of the Congress. He said such comments from the Congress were not surprising, while alleging that its leaders had been displaying "anti-Hindu attitude". He condemned the episode of miscreants damaging the flex of Lord Rama in Kolar district and alleged that "the anti-Hindu attitude" of the government had indirectly encouraged anti-socials to take up such an act.

'BJP members involved in manufacturing fake Mysore Sandal Soap'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, and IT and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge on Wednesday alleged that BJP leaders were involved in the manufacturing of "fake" Mysore Sandal Soap of the State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL).

At a press conference at the party office here, Mr. Kharge said Hyderabad-based Rakesh Jain and Mahaveer Jain, who have been booked for manufacturing "fake" Mysore Sandal Soap and other KSDL products, are "active BJP leaders in the State".

Displaying photographs of the accused with BJP leaders, Mr. Kharge claimed that they have links to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Telangana BJP MLA Raja Singh. They have links to Chittapur BJP leader Manikant Rathod and party office-bearer Vittal Nayak, the son of the former MLA Valmiki Nayak. "By making fake soap products, BJP leaders are selling Karnataka's assets," the Congress Minister alleged. Recalling corruption allegations against the former BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa when he was KSDL chairperson, Mr. Kharge claimed that saffron party leaders from the State have "their share" in the manufacturing of fake products.

The Minister said he held talks with Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and urged him to have the case investigated thoroughly.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "I have seen both the original and fake soaps; the fake ones lose colour in a day or two. This needs to be investigated."

Kumaraswamy, Amit Shah discuss seat-sharing and JD(S) formally joining NDA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The seat-sharing formula between the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) ahead of the Lok Sabha elections will be hammered out after the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya on January 22, and the date for the regional party to join the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will also be announced.

After about 45 minutes of discussion between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday evening, the JD(S) said the two leaders discussed seat-sharing and the current political development in the State. The meeting took place at Mr. Shah's residence, and the former Chief Minister was accompanied by his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy and former Rajya Sabha member Kupendra Reddy.

H.D. Kumaraswamy

"I discussed many issues with the Home Minister openly. The NDA should win the parliamentary elections and Narendra Modi should become the Prime Minister again. We discussed the BJP and the JD(S) jointly working to make this happen," Mr. Kumaraswamy said.

To meet Nadda

Mr. Kumaraswamy will meet the BJP president J.P. Nadda to formalise JD(S) joining the NDA as well as finalising the seat-sharing, the statement said. Mr. Kumaraswamy is learnt to have briefed the alleged failure of the Congress in handling the drought in Karnataka and travails of people because of it.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who will accompany his parents – the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Chennamma – to the consecration ceremony, had earlier announced that the discussions would take place after Makara Sankranti. Ahead of the meeting, several BJP leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, the former Ministers C.T. Ravi, C.P. Yogeshwar, and K. Sudhakar, among others, had met Mr. Kumaraswamy to discuss local political dynamics over the last few weeks.

'CM's jibe at PM part of efforts to save his chair by appeasing Cong. leadership'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP responded sharply to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's allegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is sleeping on issues related to Karnataka, by remarking that it was part of his effort to appease the Congress high command.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok took to social media platform X to launch a counter-attack on the Chief Minister. "If you think you can impress your high command and save your chair by such rant against the Prime Minister, then you are living in a fool's paradise," he said.

"It is no longer a secret that your days are numbered and you will be shown the exit door after the Lok Sabha elections,"

R. Ashok

claimed Mr. Ashok, who just returned from his trip to Delhi where he met the party central leaders.

The Chief Minister had taken to social media platform X on Tuesday to express his displeasure over Karnataka getting a raw deal on drought relief. He had alleged that the Prime Minister was sleeping on issues related to Karnataka which was facing one of the worst droughts in the last 47 years. Mr. Siddaramaiah's attack on the Prime Minister came days ahead of the latter's visit to Bengaluru, scheduled for January 19.

Siddaramaiah had expressed his displeasure over the State getting a 'raw deal' on drought relief

Bommai's counter

In a series of posts on X, the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai countered Mr. Siddaramaiah and said during the UPA government's regime between 2004 and 2014, Karnataka received ₹81,795.84 crore in the form of tax distribution and ₹60,779.84 crore in the form of grants. In the current NDA dispensation from 2014 to December 2023, the State received ₹2,82,791 crore in tax distribution and ₹2,08,882.02 crore as grants, he said.

HC notice to ASI on petition alleging illegal madrasa in Jamia Masjid at Srirangapatna

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered the issue of notice to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the State government on a PIL petition, which has complained that the protected monument Jamia Masjid at Srirangapatna in Mandya district, is being illegally used to operate a residential madrasa by damaging the ancient structures.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order on the petition filed by Abhishek Gowda, a resident of Kanakapura in Ramanagara district and a social worker.

It has been alleged in the petition that the construction of new structures and use of the protected monument for operating a residential madrasa are a violation of Section 16 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, which bars use of any places of worship, which is protected under the Act, from misuse, pollution or desecration.

Probe into Belagavi stripping case in final stage, govt. tells HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday told the High Court of Karnataka that the investigation into the Belagavi stripping incident is in the final stage and the probe report would be submitted before the jurisdictional court by the end of January.

Also, the government said the victim woman had not accepted the land offered as compensation through the Karnataka Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation at a village far away from her place and sought the grant of land near her village, and her request was under activer consideration of the authorities.

Accepting these statements, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishan S. Dixit adjourned further hearing by three weeks on a PIL petition, *suo motu* initiated by the court soon after the incident in December last year, and asked the government to submit further status report.

The court, on December 12, 2023, had *suo motu* taken cognisance of the incident and barred the national and regional television channels from telecasting any interview or interaction with the woman to protect her dignity as some crew members were found recording her visuals when Minister for Woman and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar had met the victim.

Later, the court on December 16 directed that no person, individual, group, association or political party should visit the victim at the hospital without the prior written permission of the medical officer.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

N.S. SREENIVASAN

18.12.1933 - 18.01.2008
Ex. SQC ISI, &
Ex. GM.IDL.Ind. Hyd.

He touched many lives in his own way. Restless till goal was achieved. Although 16 years are over since he left us, his memories remain fresh in our heart.

He lives with us for ever.

V. Narayana,
His Boyhood Friend &
One with his family

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram:			
1.1	Ruby Nagar Road Road (ID 184)	2023_SCTLT_628144_2	Rs.82,65,245/-	22 Jan 2024
1.2	Vrindavan Colony Road (ID 183)	2023_SCTLT_627989_2	Rs.2,75,87,578/-	22 Jan 2024
1.3	Punnackal Lane (ID 59)	2023_SCTLT_626123_1	Rs.2,82,97,346/-	22 Jan 2024

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yelahanka Zone), BBMP, Amruthahalli, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092.

No: SADH(YLK)/TENDER/03/2023-24 Date: 17.01.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yelahanka), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimated Amount (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Landscape Development and Other Works at K.Jairam Road, MCHS Layout in Ward No.08 Amruthalli ward of Byatarayanapura Constituency. (Others)	25,00,000/-	50,000/-

Stipulated period of Completion: 3 Months.

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement Portal from 19.01.2024. (2) Tender Closing Date: 29.01.2024. (3) Technical Bid Opening Date: 31.01.2024 at 11:00 A.M. onwards (4) Financial Bid Opening date: After Approval of Technical Bids.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(APR)/2023-24/716 Date: 12.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Conversion of existing overhead lines of 11kV Ullal Express feeder by 3*240 Sq.mm UG Cable in Ullal Sub-division of Mangaluru Division on Total turnkey basis vide bid enquiry nos. MESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT71.

The interested eligible bidders may log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.01.2024

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects). Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Can Fin Homes Ltd
Address:No.16, I Floor, Sita Vilas Road, Near Marilmallappa School, Mysore-570024
CIN –L85110KA1987PLC008699
Email:mysore@canfinhomes.com
Telephone: PH: 0821-2429699, 7625079114

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., **Mysore** Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **22.02.2024**, for recovery of **Rs.23,50,157/-** (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Fifty Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Smt. Hemavathi G and Sri. Shivakumar M V (Borrowers) and Smt. Shanthamma (Guarantors), as on 17.01.2023** together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs.29,00,000/-** (Rupee Twenty Nine Lakh only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.2,90,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Thousand only).

Description of the Immovable Property

Property No.63, situated at 1st Cross, Giriyabovipalya, Nazarbad Mohalla, Mysore-570010, Measuring North to South 30.00 feet, East to West (31.6+20)/2 Feet. Bounded by:-North – Site No.62,South – Site No.64, East – Road, West – Kere Angala.

Known encumbrances : NIL

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).

Link for participating in e-auction : www.bankeauction wizard.com

Sd/-
Date: 17.01.2024
Place : Mysore
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

‘Basic integrity in doing business is what keeps MTR going’

Hemamalini Maiya, the managing partner of MTR, spoke to *The Hindu* about the 100-year-old iconic restaurant of Bengaluru that has only gained in popularity over time with its signature dishes and draws at least 2,000 people every day

INTERVIEW

Hemamalini Maiya

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

This is a special year for the iconic landmark in Bengaluru, Mavalli Tiffin Rooms (MTR) as it completes 100 years of service in 2024. Popular for dishes like rava idli, masala dose and sweets like chandrahara and gulab jamun, the century-old restaurant continues to draw at least 2,000 people every day.

The restaurant was established by three brothers from Parampalli near Udupi district - Yagnanarayana Maiya, Ganappayya Maiya and Parameshwara Maiya - in 1924. At that time, MTR was just a small food joint on Lalbagh Fort Road and eventually, by 1960, it was relocated to the place where it currently is today. Most of the recipes served today at all the branches of MTR were the creation of Yagnanarayana Maiya.

The restaurant is currently run by third-generation Maiyas - Hemamalini Maiya, Vikram Maiya, Aravind Maiya and Priyadarshini Maiya. Even three generations later, the recipes at MTR remain untouched. Not just the owners, but even many employees at MTR are second or third generation employees.

Mavalli Tiffin Room (MTR), Lalbagh Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hemamalini, the managing partner of MTR, spoke to *The Hindu* about what has kept MTR relevant through a century, the logistical challenges involved in running a famous chain.

There is always a long queue outside MTR on Lalbagh Road. With so many people visiting every day, how do you manage the crowd and ensure that the experience remains pleasant for your customers?
It is a matter of how you manage the show. During lunch, between 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m., 500 people converge here. We try to make it as comfortable as possible for people to wait and we usually let them know at what time they can come. It is about making sure that no one waits for more than 30-45 minutes, except in some unavoidable circumstances. To avoid making them wait longer, we have increased the seating capacity to more than 200. The show goes on!

How many people are currently working in all the MTR restaurants?
We have 12 restaurants in India and seven abroad and there are more coming. We have around 600 people working in total. The main restaurant has nearly 100 employees as here they also work in shifts. At other places, it depends on the size and ranges between 30-60 employees.

How does the hiring process take place for restaurants abroad?
For the first few restaurants abroad, we sent staff from our kitchens here. But from the London branch onwards, where the challenge was getting visas, the franchisee found chefs who had experience and could get visas easily and trained them. Even for the U.S. restaurants, they found experienced chefs and hence the visa process was easy. We also trained them for six months here.

What about the availability of ingredients, which are essential to keep the taste in tact, in other countries too?
All the masalas go from here to each location. Ingredients like rice and dhals, especially urad dhal, must be of very good quality. We do a recce of the place and look at suppliers who can provide us with a steady supply of ingredients and choose the right ingredients. In the US, we did trials for a month. Ghee is always a challenge, but we have a source for that now who supplies it everywhere we go.

Supply is always a problem abroad. Sometimes there is a steady supply for a couple of months and then they suddenly run out of supply. We get in touch with their bosses here and get things done. But so far, it has been okay.

A century is a long time for a restaurant. What has changed or rather not changed that continues to keep MTR relevant to this day?
Our food has not changed even though our menu has become expansive. We do not compromise in terms of ingredients and our recipes have remained the same. MTR is known for certain things, and we stick to them and do not veer away. We are very focussed on what we are all about and we stick to what we know. We are true to everything we do. There are no gimmicks here.

Hemamalini Maiya
RAVICHANDRAN

The coming together of two styles

The dance is part of a seven-day fusion music and dance festival organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj
BENGALURU

Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra collaborates with K. Krishnamurthy Tunga, founder of Yakshakala Academy to present a dance choreography called *An Enchanting Encounter-Odissi meets Yakshagana*. “It is a fusion of Odissi dance and Yakshagana”, says Madhulita, who is also the founder of Nrityantar (school of Odissi dance in Bengaluru). The dance is part of a seven-day Fusion Music and Dance festival organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Savitri and Satyavan
“The dance depicts the story about Savitri and Satyavan, which appears as multiple narratives in *Vana Parva* (the Book of the Forest) in our epic *Mahabharata*. Savitri’s story illustrates the power of a woman’s unflinching love, chastity and devotion to her husband. This time we used Yakshagana too to be a part of this dance choreography,” says the dancer, who has conceptualised and choreographed the dance. Music is composed by Bijaya Kumar Jena and the script is written by Odia poet, Kedar Mishra.

She speaks to us from Odisha where she is presenting the same dance and says, “The fusion of Odissi and Yakshagana showcases not only the versatility of Indian classical dance forms but also enhances he storytelling with different dance vocabularies,” explains Madhulita, a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar from Central Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Tunga says that Madhulita wanted Yakshanaga to come in to portray the powerful character of Yama. “He is the god of death. His very name sends shivers down our spine. He is a character of vigour and hence Yakshagana is used to create and depict Yama in the dance.” Tunga says that they have not deviated from the classical boundaries, but the chande and Yakshana music come in for Yama while the rest comes in with Odissi music and the pakhawaj.

“The variation can be seen starkly in the music, costume and movement!,” says Tunga, from his dance school in Nagarbhavi. He started learning Yakshagana as a child. “I trained at the Shivaram Karanth Yakshagana Kendra in the gurukula system. The credit for instilling this passion for Yakshagana not only goes to my being born in Udupi, but also to my school headmaster MN Madhyastha. He was a great patron of this dance form. He is now retired, but, mentioning him as my menor in Yakshagana is an honour for me,” beams 54-0year-old Tunga, who worked in the Women and Child Welfare Department, Bengaluru and says: “despite having a full time government job, I pursued Yakshagana.” He will don the role of Yama in the dance choreography.

They will perform on January 20, 7 p.m. at Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

A confluence of art and nature in the city

Past Summers, a solo show by artist Krishnamurthy P.S., showcases his love for found natural objects

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A cat ambles across the gallery, leaving paw prints on the sheet of sand surrounding an enormous effigy of an anthill from which scores of sculpted ants emanate, marching across the floors and walls in a ceaseless spiral.

Look closer, and you will notice that each and every ant is composed solely of organic materials: bat head root seeds forming a surprisingly lifelike carapace affixed to jointed legs hewn from Samra tree spines, “I work with anything natural,” says Krishnamurthy P.S., the artist behind this sculptural assemblage titled *Death Circle*, which represents the strange, natural phenomenon of an ant mill, the mass suicide of army ants when they lose a pheromone track and end up endlessly circling round and round, till they eventually drop dead of exhaustion.

“I have worked on this project for a month, documenting ants and their behaviour on my phone in the form of videos,” he says, adding that this constant observation of both ants and seeds helped him envision the form of the final object.

The exhibition represents the strange, natural phenomenon of an ant mill, the mass suicide of ants when they lose a pheromone track and end up endlessly circling round and round, till they eventually drop dead of exhaustion. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Natural materials
This installation is one of the two being exhibited at Kanike Studios, Cooke Town, till January 31, as part of the artist’s solo show titled *Past Summers*.

The other, a more abstract assemblage hanging on the wall of the adjoining room, is also composed of natural materials; in this case, it is eucalyptus bark sutured together with nylon thread.

Krishnamurthy’s fascination for natural materials stems from a childhood spent in the hamlet of Panchavalli, located just outside the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. “My family cleared the forest and created a home far from the (main) village,” recalls the

Artist Krishnamurthy P.S.

27-year-old. Since he was so far out, he didn’t have too many friends and would instead spend hours meandering through the forest, often stopping to pick up interesting objects that he discovered there.

Stills from the exhibition.

Sculpting
“The forest became my escape,” says Krishnamurthy, who moved to Kanakapura after his 10th grade to pursue an ITI electrician course, an experience he did not enjoy.

He had always enjoyed drawing, and so—in 2015—enrolled for a BVA at the Chamrajendra Government College of Visual Arts (CAVA) in Mysore. It was here that he was exposed to sculpture and the possibilities it offered. “I learnt how to envision things in 3D,” he says. However, he also knew that he did not want to use conventional materials such as clay, marble, stone or fibre in his art practice.

Instead, he turned back to the found natural objects he had always loved and collected since childhood. “I knew the texture and form of these objects...how keeping something like a leaf as an element, a larger piece could come together as a unit,” he says, adding that while he is aware of the impermanence of these objects, he truly enjoys the process of creating art with them. “This is what I want to do,” he says.

Past Summers, a solo show by Krishnamurthy P.S., is on at Kanike Studios, Cooke Town, till January 31

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 18, 1974

Problems of Traffic Policemen

Bangalore: More number of Bangaloreans are becoming proud owners of motor vehicles despite the oil crisis and they are adding to the city’s traffic problems.

In a recent talk at the Institute of Management, Mr. K.U. Shetty, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), who is the traffic police chief of the city, said there that were hardly 400 constables to watch the idiosyncrasies of thousands of motorists.

According to him the jurisdiction of the traffic police is over an area of 200 sq. miles, which is beyond the limits of the City Corporation. Three hundred villages also come under the jurisdiction of the traffic police. There are 70,030 motor vehicles registered in the city.

New Mangalore Port to be Commissioned in May

Mangalore, Jan. 17: The New Mangalore Port will be formally commissioned in May this year. The Rs. 30 crore project will be ready by next February itself for export of about 25,000 tonnes of fish from Mangalore.

Giving this information to-day, Mr. Pandith Aradhya, Chief Engineer and Administrator of the project, told pressmen that initially the port was expected to handle about one million tonnes of freight during 1974-75 which was expected to increase to about three million tonnes during 1976-77. Dredging operations now being carried on by a Dutch firm would be completed by this year end. Already Rs. 26 crores had been spent on the entire project.

GIG GUIDE

Headlong into the future

Whether it is pop-rock, nu-metal, indie or electronic, the new year is looking melodious for the city's music lovers

Anurag Tagat

Alva Kuuto, Naadaani

January 20, 7 pm onwards
The Raft, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹499 via Skillboxes.com

Among the few formidable names in indie music written and sung in Tulu, singer-songwriter Praveen Alva's band, Alva Kuuto, keep their Bengaluru fan base coming back for more with a special performance at the Raft this week. Joined by the two-member pop band Naadaani, Alva Kuuto have titled their performance as *solmelu*, which translates to "Thank You" in Tulu. They add in their event description, "The band is extending their gratitude to their loyal audience for all their support since the inception of the band; they will present a unique musical experience through stories and memories of the southwestern coastal region, reimagining folk melodies and narratives via contemporary sensibilities and arrangements."

JO

January 19, 9:30 pm onwards
Windmills, Whitefield
Tickets: ₹1500 (seated), ₹499 (standing) via windmills-india.com

Traveling through India as part of a multi-city tour, German drummer-composer Jo Beyer and his band (called JO) stop by Bengaluru for two shows at Windmills this week. At the time of announcing his debut tour of the country, Beyer said in a social media post, "It's happening and I still can't believe it. My band JO will start 2024 with playing a tour in India. My hands are tingling. I can't wait to explore all these places and venues and get in contact with the people and spread our music."

Most recently, Beyer released an album called *Mic in the Face is Not on Purpose* and while that title may have you chuckling, there is a lot more in store when JO gets on stage to interpret the founder's material. A description for the event says, "His signature emotive expression has led jazz-award juries to appreciate his disruptive and innovative style in the contemporary scene and support his musical ideas by awarding him with several renowned international new-comer jazz awards."

THUMP ft Nemophilis, The Lucidwake, AKOG

January 21, 7 pm onwards
WL Superclub, HSR Layout
Tickets: ₹599 via Insider.in

Promoted as a music festival, the inaugural edition of THUMP will see three diverse rock acts take to the stage at White Lotus Superclub for what the event calls a "visually immersive" event. Pune-based rock trio Nemophilis – who released their debut album *The Iceberg* that showcases their pop-rock and nu-metal influences like Linkin Park – will perform, alongside two Bengaluru-based bands. AKOG aka Another Kind of Green have been dominating venues in the city with high-energy sets and recently put out a "Christmas diss track" called 'Naughty or Nice' that draws from punk rock, both thematically and sonically. The Lucidwake, for their part, will take to the stage on the back of having two singles out so far – 'Don't Stop' in 2023 and 'Bleed'.

Thermal And A Quarter

January 20, 8 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹600 via Insider.in, plus ₹500 cover charge at the door

Fresh off their standout performance at rock festival Bandland in the city, Bengaluru rock veterans Thermal And A Quarter take yet another new turn in their storied career as an independent band with a show at Fandom that is split into two parts, called Un/Plugged. The quartet comprising Bruce Lee Mani on vocals and guitar, Tony Das on backing vocals and guitar, bassist Leslie Charles and drummer Rajeev Rajagopal, will perform an acoustic set to start with, promising "top TAAQ like you've never heard" followed by an electric set that presents their songs "no holds barred, dialled up to 11."

Old world melody Venue of the music fest, Sanjoy Roy, MD, Teamwork Arts (below).
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kabir's melodic odyssey

S B Vijaya Mary

It's 6 am on a chilly December morning when audiences board a boat that meanders through the river Ganga. As the boat docks at the Guleria Ghat, the anticipation heightens. On disembarking, they are greeted by a breathtaking sight of the sunrise and the mist enveloping the Ganga, heralding the seventh edition of the Mahindra Kabira Music Festival in Varanasi. The celebration of the 15th Century mystique poet and saint Kabir begins on a serene note.

Amidst this natural spectacle, Sandeep Singh, a maestro of the taus, takes centre stage and holds the audience in thrall with his unique peacock-shaped instrument. This is soon followed by a tribute concert to mark the centenary of Pandit Kumar Gandharva, by singer Bhuvanesh Komkali, the legend's grandson.

One could not have asked for a better start to the two-day programme from December 16-17, 2023, curated by the Mahindra Group and Teamwork Arts, an art and culture production company.

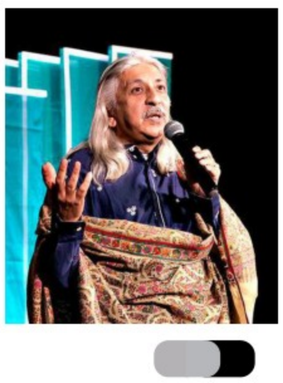
The gathering of delegates from across the country and several parts of the world were treated to a sumptuous programme of classical, folk and fusion music and insightful discourse inspired by Kabir, heritage walks, temple visits, and a range of signature local Banarasi dishes.

Celebrating diversity

The Kabira festival has been a journey of cultural evolution and artistic exploration, says Jay Shah, vice president and head of Cultural Outreach Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

Speaking in between the sessions, he says, "The Kabira festival has emerged as a cultural phenomenon, transcending its local roots to become a brand synonymous with music, art and celebration of diversity.

Over the past seven years, the festival has not only established itself as a mainstay in Varanasi's cultural calendar but has also evolved to attract a diverse audience from across the country."



Artistes are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones, creating unique performances that go beyond the conventional interpretations of Kabir's work. For example, artistes like Raghu Dixit have embraced the challenge of singing in a language foreign to the festival's origin, showcasing the festival's ability to push boundaries and inspire creativity."

Speaking about the significance of the Kabira festival over other curated festivals by Mahindra, Sanjoy Roy, MD, Teamwork Arts, says this is the first in their Sacred series and perhaps the oldest. "It is very close to Teamwork's heart. What better place to do it than Varanasi, which is a spiritual and religious centre of India? "

The various interpretations of Kabir's songs, philosophy, and poetry by different festival artistes reflect his message's flexibility and adaptability.

Roy says that the poetry itself wasn't necessarily all attributed to or done by Kabir; it assimilated over time. "The purest form is seen in the Guru Granth Sahib, where Kabir's hymns are also included. It was the first and earliest collection that we have seen. And now we will see the collection of 400 songs in Rajasthani very soon," adds Roy.

While the core of the festival remains firmly rooted in Varanasi, the organisers aimed to spread the festival's influence beyond its birthplace.

Shah acknowledges the importance of gradually expanding and embracing new regions, as demonstrated by recently adding a festival in Bengaluru.

Bengali play, 'Deshe Bidweshe', comes to Bengaluru this weekend

Shilpa Anandraj

Pictorial presentation The play will have elements of mime and street play.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ekalavya Performing Arts (EPA) and Picture Wicture Productions collaborate to stage *Deshe Bidweshe*. Directed by Bodhisatta Sarkar, Tanumay Datta and Biplab Kundu, *Deshe Bidweshe* is based on the two Bengali plays, *Swadhinotar Swapno* (Dream of Freedom) and *Juddhobaaj* (Warmonger), according to Bodhisatta.

Speaking amidst rehearsals from Whitefield, Bodhisatta says, "The first play is a modern take on the life and times of Khudiram Basu, one of the earliest martyrs in the struggle for independence. With a new age sense and sensibility, we embark upon a journey to understand India. But where is this India? What is the concept of a nation? The answer to these are sought through the struggles of young Khudiram."

Juddhobaaj, Bodhisatta says, is a socio-political play.

"It showcases the perils of war, which is often glorified under the garb of hyper nationalism."

Juddhobaaj, the 45-year-old theatre and mime practitioner says, is about different aspects of war and how it impacts people of various strata of the society.

"The play looks at sociological hierarchy from the perspective of war. It is a combination of street and proscenium theatre. There will be loud actions (more like a pictorial representation on stage) with words, making it easy for even a non-Bengali person to comprehend what is happening on stage." The three directors, Bodhisatta says, brought in three perspectives.

"We started with workshops. The script, the voice and perspective evolved with the participants during the workshop. Though we are listed as directors, we worked more as play designers."

This, Bodhisatta says, is a contemporary method, where the actor is an integral part of the evolution of the script.

"Rather than being told what to do, everyone wants to have a voice, and share their perspective. We work with children and young adults at EPA and discovered that they have strong and valid perspectives, which we found to be of extreme value and we decided to feed our creativity on those aspects as well."

Deshe Bidweshe, Bodhisatta says, will also have a little bit of mime, which he created. Bodhisatta learnt mime from his father, who in turn learnt from artiste Yogesh Dutta.

Deshe Bidweshe will be staged on January 20, at 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Tickets are available on BookMyShow

CITYBEATS

Just brews

ONGOING
The Kind Roastery & Brewroom has launched a range of speciality coffees in unique flavours. The coffee is said to be made from beans sourced from Ratnagiri and Krishnagiri. The new flavours are apple latte, pineapple pour over, cinnamon jaggery cold dip and cranberry cold drip.
The Kind Roastery & Brewroom is in JP Nagar

Start the year green

ONGOING
Brik Oven launches a new vegan menu to celebrate the month of Veganuary – a month-long plant-powered pledge. There will be pizza made with vegan mozzarella crafted from cashew milk and sourdough bread with a range of salads and vegan cheesecake for dessert.
At Brik Oven, Indiranagar.

For the creative you

JANUARY 19
Be a part of 'UnAdulting,' a creativity and theatre orientation organised by Yours Truly Theatre. The programme will focus on helping one break free from the routine, discover the artiste within and explore one's creativity. Open to those aged 16 years and above.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Around 7.6% of youth not enrolled either in school or college in Mysuru district: ASER

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 68% of youth can read at least class 2 level text (14 to 16 age group), and only 58% can read basic English

The Annual Status of Education Report-2023 (ASER) 'Beyond Basics' revealed that around 7.6% of youth are not enrolled either in school or college in Mysuru district. Around 68% of youth can read at least class 2 level text (14 to 16 age group), and only 58% can read basic English.

The ASER-2023 'Beyond Basics' is a nationwide citizen-led household survey conducted by the non-profit organization Pratham, focused on 14 to 18-year-old youth in rural India and how prepared they are to lead productive lives as adults.

This survey covers four aspects of these youth's lives: their educational and career pathways, their ability to apply foundational skills to daily life situations, their digital access and skills and their aspirations for the future.

For the first time, Mysuru was picked up for the survey, and the surveyors visited 1,194 households in 60 villages. Most young people are enrolled in some educational institution, and 86.8% of 14 to 18-year-olds are enrolled in either school or college. The proportion of youth who are currently not enrolled in school or college rises with age from 3.9% for 14-year-olds to 10.9% for 16-year-olds and 32.6% for 18-year-olds, the report said. In the age group of 14 to 16 years, 2% of the youth population is not enrolled in any of the educational institutions; the percentage is 19 among 17 to 18 year-olds.

Nationally, one major worry at the time of COVID-19 was that with livelihoods being threatened, older children would drop out of school. "That fear turned out to be unfounded. The proportion of out-of-school children and youth has been declining, because of the government's push to universalise secondary education," the report said.

In Mysuru, when it comes to numerics of the age group 14 to 16, the report stated that 38.4% of youth can do division. This percentage is 35.3 among 17-18 age groups. About 58.9% can read basic English between the 14 to 16 age group and it is 66.1% in the 17 to 18 age group.

As for ownership of digital devices in Mysuru, around 88.6% have a smartphone at home, 96.1% can use them, 57% have accessed online services, 81% were able to browse for information, 93% could find YouTube videos, 84.2% could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and 93% used social media during the survey week, the report said.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 12

Modi unveils three projects worth ₹4,000 crore in Kochi

The projects — new dry dock, international ship repair facility and LPG import terminal of IOC — will catalyse the development of Kerala and southern parts of the country, says Prime Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

In the august presence of
Shri Arif Mohammed Khan
Governor, Kerala
Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways &
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing Affairs
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating projects in the presence of Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Kochi on Wednesday. H. VIBHU

Three infrastructure projects totalling ₹4,000 crore in Kochi – a new dry dock and an international ship repair facility (ISRF) of Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and an LPG import terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen – are in line with the vision to transform India's ports, shipping, and inland waterways by boosting capacity building and self-sufficiency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday after inaugurating them.

He said the Centre had been ushering in reforms to bring about ease of business in these areas, while the Sagarmala project would help improve connectivity between ports.

The new projects, including the country's largest dry dock, would catalyse the development of Kerala and southern parts of the country. The new dry dock would enable big vessels to dock here for repairs, reducing dependence on foreign countries and thus saving foreign exchange. The ISRF would transform Kochi into South Asia's largest ship-repair centre.

A new ecosystem of MSMEs was envisaged, with the inauguration of such big shipbuilding and repair facilities. The new LPG import terminal would meet the LPG needs of Kochi, Kozhikode, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Madurai, and Trichy.

Mr. Modi said the situation when ships had to wait for long at ports to unload had changed, so much so that India had surpassed many developed nations when it came to their turnaround time.

In his address, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 'Made in Kerala' was becoming a key component of the 'Make in India' initiative.

BJP will win Kerala voters' trust, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence that Bharatiya Janata Party workers in Kerala will be successful in winning the trust of voters of Kerala.

Speaking at a meeting of party workers in charge of the Shakthi Kendra in Kerala, Mr. Modi called upon party workers to light Ram Jyothi on January 22 coinciding with the installation of the idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

He said Kerala had a history of observing Ramayana month, the month dedicated to reciting the Ramayana. Party workers should ensure that the message of Ram Jyothi reached every household during the consecration of the temple. They should also carry out cleaning campaigns in temples in their respective areas, he suggested.

Mr. Modi wanted BJP workers to spread the message of 'Modi Ki' guarantee to the masses during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the State.

The Prime Minister claimed that his government could pull 25 crore people out of poverty in nine years, which he said was a feat the Congress, which ruled the country for decades, could not achieve. Rolling out the details and the number of beneficiaries of the flagship projects of his government, Mr. Modi asked the party workers to spread the word about the schemes.

The party workers should maintain contact with voters in their respective booths. If the party succeeded in winning the booths, it would also be successful in winning the State, he suggested.

Attends wedding

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi offered prayers at Sreekrishna Temple, Guruvayur, and Sree Ramaswami Temple, Thriprayar, on Wednesday morning.

Later, he attended the wedding ceremony of BJP leader and actor Suresh Gopi's daughter Bhagya with Shreyas.

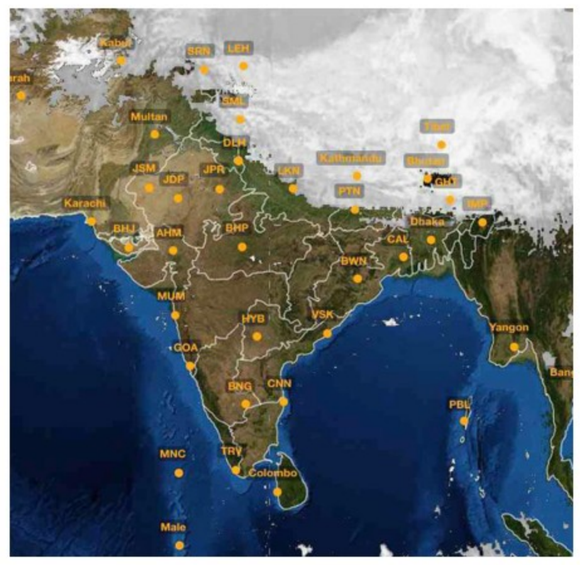
The Prime Minister handed over garlands to the couple and blessed them. Mr. Modi also blessed a few other couples who got married on Wednesday.

Many eminent film personalities, including Mammootty and Mohanlal, attended the wedding.

(With inputs from Guruvayur)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and north Madhya Pradesh. Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions likely in some parts over Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	18.8	10.5	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.0	13.0	Kurnool	—	32.7	20.8
Aizawl	—	24.1	7.0	Lucknow	—	14.8	7.1
Allahabad	—	12.2	8.6	Madurai	—	32.4	19.1
Bengaluru	—	29.1	17.3	Mangaluru	—	31.8	21.8
Bhopal	—	25.9	11.0	Mumbai	—	29.1	17.3
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	19.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.2
Chandigarh	—	19.5	5.1	New Delhi	—	18.2	5.7
Chennai	—	30.4	21.2	Patna	—	14.2	10.2
Coimbatore	—	31.5	19.8	Port Blair	—	31.5	26.6
Dehradun	—	22.2	6.2	Puducherry	—	30.3	20.4
Gangtok	0.2	10.1	7.1	Pune	—	31.4	15.4
Goa	—	31.0	20.3	Raipur	—	29.0	18.2
Guwahati	—	20.4	13.8	Ranchi	—	22.1	10.5
Hubballi	—	33.0	16.0	Shillong	—	14.1	5.5
Hyderabad	—	30.8	19.7	Shimla	—	14.6	5.2
Imphal	—	21.5	5.8	Srinagar	—	12.2	-2.4
Jaipur	—	21.2	6.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	21.6
Kochi	—	31.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	32.5	20.0
Kohima	—	17.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.0	20.2
Kolkata	—	19.0	12.1	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	23.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	12	.26	258	205	
Bengaluru	4	31	.48	113	164	
Chennai	7	12	.55	127	131	
Delhi	.10	.76	.97	422	401	
Hyderabad	7	164	.38	105	—	
Kolkata	9	.74	.37	262	158	
Lucknow	4	.37	.78	224	179	
Mumbai	6	.41	.30	173	157	
Pune	115	170	109	50	74	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.46	.33	104	107	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 376 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Vijayapura, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004,
Email:- gmrevenue2022@gmail.com,

1ST TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

NIT No.	Electric Supply Area
289/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Dhanbad & Giridih
290/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Jamshedpur
291/PR/JBVNL/2023-24	Ranchi

Bid Submission Timeline against above mentioned NITs floated for Appointment of "Service Agency for Engagement of Urja Mitras for Real Time Spot Billing using Android based Mobile Device along with Portable Printer for Billing and Revenue Collection" is hereby extended as per following schedule:

Sl. No.	Event	Existing Timelines	Proposed Timelines
i	Last date & time of receipt of bid documents (Online)	Upto 15/01/2024 at 18:00 Hrs.	Upto 24/01/2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
ii	Due date for opening of Technical Bid (Part-I)	17/01/2024 at 15:00 Hrs.	24/01/2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

Bid uploading / opening will be through e-tendering norms only. The complete Tender documents along with corrigendum documents can be downloaded through website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Bidder may contact help desk of e-Procurement system at the following web address: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Call Center 24 x 7
18003456570 /18001238745
Centralised Complain NO. 1912

Tendering Authority:
General Manager (Revenue) 9431708980
PR No. 314049

Sd/-
General Manager (Revenue)

PR 316286 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24)D

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Sri. Sowndar Rajan has lost the Original Allotment Letter. No. BDA/DS-2/2032/54/BLK-V/SMVL/2003-2004 dated 10.04.2003 while Transit at Nagendra Block going for Xerox between 3.00 pm to 3.30 pm on 08.01.2024. The said document was related to Site No. 2032/54, 5th Block, Sir. M. Visveswaraiah Layout, East to West 9 mtr, and North to South 6 mtrs, totally measuring 54 sq. mtrs., If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention address:

Subrahmanya Hegde, Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building,
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road,
Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20.
Mob: 9060069259.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify all the general public that, my clients are intending to purchase the immovable properties which are more-fully described in the schedule given hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Properties from M/s. Garden City Promoters & Developers, a registered partnership firm, having its office at S.I. Ranka Park, 5th Block, No.4, 5 & 6, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore, represented by its partners **1) Mr. Mobin Ramzan Ali Bhojani and 2) Mrs. Joyce Alexand, W/o. Mr. Alexander Daniel,** on their claim/s, assurance/s and representation/s that, they are the sole and absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Properties.

Therefore, the public at large is put on notice that, if anybody has got any right, interest, claim, lien, or charge over the Schedule Properties of any nature and have got any objection/s against the intended transactions with my clients by them, may lodge his/her/their objections within **15 days** from the date of publication of this public notice with me in my office within the office hours (10:00 am to 6:00 pm) along with the documentary proof to support his/her/their objections. Please further note that, in the absence of any objections being lodged with me within the aforesaid period, my clients will have to presume that, the aforesaid owners/vendors have got unimpeachable right, title and interest over the Schedule Properties and will proceed in the matter to finalize the transactions. It is further to note that, no objections/claims will be entertained by my clients thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

1. All that piece and parcel of the immovable vacant property bearing **Plot No.6,** PID.No. 150200200600322151 issued by the Rajanukunte Grama Panchayath, carved out of Survey No.74/4, converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide conversion order No.ALN.SR(S)2:1994-95 dated 20.07.1994, Situated at Residential Layout called **"GARDEN CITY PARADISE", Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Arekere Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West 24.47 meters and North to South 30.17 meters, in all totally ad-measuring **741.55 square meters** and bounded on:

East By : Plot No.7
West By : Plot No.5
North By : Road
South By : Private Property

2. All that piece and parcel of the immovable vacant property bearing **Plot No.7,** PID.No. 150200200600322152 issued by the Rajanukunte Grama Panchayath, carved out of Survey No.74/4, converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide conversion order No.ALN.SR(S)2:1994-95 dated 20.07.1994, Situated at Residential Layout called **"GARDEN CITY PARADISE", Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Arekere Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West 24.47 meters and North to South 30.17 meters, in all totally ad-measuring **741.55 square meters** and bounded on:

East By : Private Property
West By : Plot No.6
North By : Road
South By : Private Property

3. All that piece and parcel of the immovable vacant property bearing **Plot No.15,** carved out of Survey No.74/4, converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide conversion order No.ALN.SR(S)2:1994-95 dated 20.07.1994, Situated at Residential Layout called **"GARDEN CITY PARADISE", Addevishwanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Arekere Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West (97+107)/2 feet and North to South (74+113)/2 feet, in all totally ad-measuring **9,537 square feet** and bounded on:

East By : Plot No.8
West By : Chokkanahalli 40 feet Road
North By : Private Property
South By : Road

JAGADEESH.C.K,
Advocate,
Unit.No.4207, 2nd Floor, High Point-IV,
Basaveshwara Circle, Palace Road,
Bangalore- 560001.
Mob: +91 9845468889

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

No. 105// Dt. 12.01.2024 //

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works in Odisha

Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-39/2023-24

1. Name of the Work : **Road Works**
2. Total No. of Work : **09 Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.333.15 to 811.06 Lakhs**
4. Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-39/2023-24	19.01.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	30.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	29.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	31.01.2024 at 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.

O-2225: OIPR-25180/11/0060/2324

Government of Odisha, "e"- Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B) 30/2023-24

Letter No. 155 / Dt.11/01/2024 Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building works as detailed below:

1. Name of the work : **Building works.**
2. No of works : **03 (Three) No**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1.72 crore to Rs. 6.90 crore (as given in column No.03 of table)**
4. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of contractor : **'B', 'A' & 'Special' Class (as given in column No.07 of table)**
6. Period of Completion of work : **07 (Seven) to 09 (Nine)** Calendar months **(as given in column No.08 of table)**
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.**17.01.2024** to **5.00 P.M. of Dt.31.01.2024**
8. Date of opening of bid : Dt.**31.01.2024** at **5.30 P.M.**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only, further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal

B-1617 OIPR - 34132/11/0038/2324

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT TRAINING CENTRE
JC NAGAR, BANGALORE-560006.

ALLOTMENT OF REGIMENTAL SHOP

1. Sealed tenders are invited from interested War Widow / Widows of Defence Personnel Killed While on Duty /Disabled Soldiers / Ex-servicemen & Spouses / Widows of Ex-Servicemen subject to license period for a period of one year further extendable upto five years for running below mentioned Regimental Shop at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore.

S. No.	Shop Name	Building No.	Loc
(a)	Fast Food Corner	P-39/5	Adjacent to URC complex PRTC

2. Application form including terms & Conditions for running of above mentioned Regimental Shop can be obtained from the PRI Office of this Centre at the cost of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) each from 0900 hours to 1400 hours on all working days till 27 Oct. 2024. **Last date of submission of application form is 01 Feb. 2024.**
3. Interested parties can go around the shop with prior permission from authority before last date of submission of application form.
4. The application will be enfaced with **"Application for Allotment of Regimental Shop"** on the envelope at the time of submission.

The Application shall be submitted to:

DEPUTY COMMANDANT
The Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No:-Tender Online RWC -02/2024, Letter No.:-144 Date : 12.01.2024

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge & Road works .**
2. Class of Contractor
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : **Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.**
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : **A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.**
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : **B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.**
3. Time for Completion : **As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure**
4. Detail Projects : **As per Annexure attached**
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 02/24	19.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	02.02.2024 up to 05.00 P.M	02.02.2024 up to 02.00 P.M	03.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** .

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

O-2226: OIPR-25097/11/0041/2324

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No. 02/2024 Dated: 12-01-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
1	L8245081	25KV Single pole vacuum interrupter including all accessories and fittings. **Qty-15 Nos.**	06-02-2024
2	L8236716A	Un-insulated Cadmium Copper Catenary wire 65 Sq.mm **Qty-6400 Mtrs.**	05-02-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/632/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. Priya Kumar,W/o. Mr. Kishore Kumar, D/o. S Kumar, Residing at No. L26 Anna Kudiruppu, SV Mills, Udumalpet, Venkatesa Mills, Udumalaipettai Tiruppur,Tamil Nadu-642128, intend to purchase the Schedule B and C Property from **Sri. Shreyas K.S,** Aged 33 years, S/o. Sri. Sampath K.T and Smt. Bhagyalakshmi, Residing at First Floor 02, Passion Paradise 45, 1st Main, 1st Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore- 560028. The Seller came into the possession, occupation and ownership of the Schedule property by virtue of a registered dated 08/12/2023 executed by his parents Sri. K.T Sampath and Smt. Bhagyalakshmi in his favor vide Gift Deed bearing No. CMP-1-06636-2023-24, Book I, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavangudi (Chamarajapete) Bangalore. Any person/s claiming to have any charge, lien, interest, minor claims, rights, whatsoever over the Schedule Property may lodge their claim with the undersigned with original documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the Schedule Property. No claims will be entertained there after and our clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY
(DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE LAND)

All That piece and parcel of **Residential Vacant Site bearing no 45, old no 69, ward no 51. PID No 51-91-45, Basavanagudi, 1st Block, Tyagrajanagar, Bangalore measuring 2626.75 Sq.Ft,** presently within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and bounded as follows;

East by : Property of Sri. T.V Sreenivasaiah
west by : Corporation Road
North by : Property of Sri Ramachandrachar
South by : Corporation Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

An undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property measuring to an extent of 320 Sq. ft

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

Three Bed Room Apartment bearing No FF-02, on the First Floor, East facing western side of the residential complex known as **'PASSION PARADISE'** measuring 1300 Sq ft of super built up area , (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartment and proportionate share in all common areas) are along with one car parking space and one scooter parking space in the basement floor,

Building Specifications: RCC roofing, vitrified tile flooring , teak wood main door, still and aluminium windows.

Pallavi.K ADVOCATE
No.64/1, 5th Main Road, Chamarajapete,
Bangalore-560 018 Ph:9739831357

A BG-BGE

Regional turmoil

West Asia needs a security equilibrium with the Palestine issue at centre

The war on Gaza is no longer about Israel and Hamas. Israel has carried out targeted strikes in Lebanon and Syria, killing Hezbollah, Hamas and Iranian commanders. From southern Lebanon, Hezbollah is exchanging fire with Israeli troops. Iran-backed militias in Syria and Iraq have attacked U.S. forces in Syria and Iraq. The Houthis, the Iran-backed rebels of Yemen, have turned the Red Sea into a battlefield. The U.S.'s air strikes in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, seek to retaliate against Shia militias. As chaos and instability spread, Sunni Islamist militants attacked Iran, killing at least 100 people. In the latest escalation, Iran claims to have destroyed an Israeli intelligence outpost in Iraq's Kurdistan and training camps of Sunni Islamists in Syria and Pakistan, in air strikes. This is now a classic case of regional anarchy where countries are taking unilateral military measures to address their perceived security challenges, throwing international laws and the idea of sovereignty, the bedrock of the international system, to the wind, thereby risking a wider all-out war.

Just weeks before the October 7 attack, Jake Sullivan, the U.S. National Security Adviser, had said "the Middle East is quieter today than it has been in two decades". The Abraham Accords were on a strong footing, and Saudi Arabia and Israel were moving closer towards normalisation. Iraq had become quieter; Gulf Arabs and Iran had reached a rapprochement; and a ceasefire was holding in Yemen. Most of these changes, however, ignored the oldest crisis in the region – Israel's continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories. The October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's subsequent vengeful offensive in Gaza have not only brought Palestine back to the centre of West Asia but also lit fires, triggering perhaps the deepest security crisis in the region since 1967. The involvement of non-state actors and the absence of an off ramp complicate matters. After 100 days of war with Hamas, Israel has achieved little in Gaza. The Houthis, a militia that survived seven years of Saudi bombing, are unlikely to be deterred by America's strikes. Even though Iran wants to showcase strength and boldness, it cannot mask its inherent weakness, which also makes it unpredictable. The old order, anchored by America's domineering regional presence, is in tatters. What West Asia needs is a new security equilibrium. There has to be an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and peace between Israel and Palestinians could be used as a springboard for further talks aimed at regional security between the main stakeholders – Israel, Arab nations, Iran, the U.S. and their respective allies and proxies.

Early lead

Trump seems the favourite to win the Republican nomination

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has established a significant lead over other Republican Party candidates in the first formal event of the election season, the Iowa caucuses. This puts him in pole position to be the Republican nominee for the November 2024 presidential election House, even though the nomination process through state-level primaries and caucuses is usually hard-fought and can produce surprise outcomes. While the 45th President scooped up 20 delegates in Iowa, far ahead of the nine delegates of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and eight delegates of former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, in order to win the Party's nomination a candidate would require a total of 1,215 delegates. Meanwhile, the next Republican presidential debate was cancelled after Ms. Haley declined to appear on stage unless Mr. Trump participates too, something he has refused to do so far. Indeed, it is Ms. Haley who perhaps represents the greatest possibility of posing a challenge to Mr. Trump, and the next Republican contest in New Hampshire, a swing state, will be her best opportunity to dent his momentum. The state has a more white and rural population and nearly 40% of its electorate is comprised of independent voters who may prefer a more moderate candidate than Mr. Trump.

Regardless of what twists of fate might lie ahead for the three candidates in the Republican primaries, it is clear from the Iowa results that Mr. Trump has bounced back from what some consider the political embarrassment and legal quagmires of the four indictments that he has been slapped with for alleged improprieties of conduct during his time in office. The latest voting suggests that his popularity among conservatives has not dwindled much; contrarily, he appears to be their candidate of choice more than in previous elections. The Iowa caucuses surveys suggest that nearly 50% of Republican considered themselves to be members of Mr. Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement, and the breadth of his victory included older and younger age cohorts, men and women, and far-right and evangelical caucus-goers. Reports from Iowa indicate that nearly 90% among this group believed the Trump campaign falsehoods that the 2020 election was "stolen" and thus tend to overlook federal and state charges that he faces relating to the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol and election interference in Georgia. An early assessment of Mr. Trump's overall position suggests that he would be well placed to win his party's nomination and perhaps successfully challenge his Democratic rival, incumbent Joe Biden, in November. Whether this will be a positive development favouring the U.S.'s long-term national interest is an entirely different question.

India's foundational battle on the 'Hindu' question

Pushparaj Deshpande

is the Editor of 'The Great Indian Manthan: State, Statecraft & the Republic' and the Director of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation

A voter from Rajasthan recently said "*laabh toh bahut mila hain* Congress *Sarkar se, lekin* Hindu *ki tarah hi* vote *karunga* (I have benefited a lot from Congress government's schemes, but I'll vote like a Hindu"). A superfluous reading of this statement is that the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) have successfully captured India's "Hindu vote". Before that proposition is objectively dissected, we must concede that the RSS-BJP have shifted the nation's political centre so comprehensively that many feel compelled to operate on their terms (or in juxtaposition to them). That is why many privately practising Hindus are now performative in their religiosity, make metaphysical distinctions between Hinduism and Hindutva and are reduced to props to the RSS-BJP's politicisation of religion (as in the Ram Mandir's inauguration).

But that citizen's innocuous statement did raise four fundamental questions that progressive forces are skirting around. First, does India's silent majority see itself as primarily Hindu (obfuscating all other socio-economic and political identities)? Second, does this identification determine political alignments? Third, do Hindus see their socio-political, economic and religious interests as contradictory to all other religious communities? And, finally, how can progressive parties win the "Hindu vote" (if it exists) without resorting to performative religiosity?

India's national pulse

Only a scientific survey can demonstrate whether Indians think and vote exclusively as Hindus. But going by the Lokniti surveys, it is a combination of other factors (including a plethora of developmental issues, the absence of countervailing mass organisations, an anti-establishment angst and the lack of an inspiring alternative vision) which is determining voting patterns. However, it is undeniable that Hinduism genuinely influences the daily interactions and normative worldview of many Indians. However, the moral compass of the silent majority still overwhelmingly leans towards India's Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb* and *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*. Mahatma Gandhi's distinction between communalism (the othering of communities for politico-ideological ends) and religion as a way of life is a helpful yardstick to understand this further. Gandhi consciously positioned himself within India's socio-cultural mainstream. Drawing on that mainstream's norms, he ensured that the Congress movement scrupulously followed *sarva dharma samabhava* (equal respect for all religions), *ahimsa* (non-violence), *aparagriha* (non-possessiveness), *asaucha* (control of diet including abstinence from alcohol) and *satya* (truth). Consequently, the Congress exemplified morality, public service and *tapasya* (self-control and sacrifice) in popular consciousness. This societal embedding allowed for mass association. Thus, Indians from any caste, creed, gender, ideology and region could be in the Congress provided they scrupulously adhered to *maitreyi* fraternity) and identified with the nation. This balance between ideological sharpness and suppleness made the Congress Party hegemonic.

> Even though there is no silver bullet to counter the potent mixture of Hindutva (politicised Hinduism) and Rashtrawaad (nationalism) today, progressives can help reclaim the hearts and minds of Indians

But if the Congress was solidly aligned with India's national pulse, why is BJP a beneficiary of the "Hindu-vote" today? This is partly because of the political stasis post Babri Masjid. While stridently defending secularism, progressive parties abdicated the responsibility of programmatically countering communalism to civil society. Unfortunately, civil society does not have a uniform pan-India presence, the financial wherewithal or the State's instruments to pose a comprehensive ideological counter. Meanwhile, the RSS-BJP silently indoctrinated society by appropriating Dalit-Other Backward Classes-Adivasi icons, and through religio-cultural programmes, educational institutions and popular culture. Essentially, the Sangh Parivar tactically aligned itself with the mainstream to inject its ideology onto and into society. It is no coincidence that the Sangh exclusively leverages (even weaponises) Vaishnavite norms or iconography (as opposed to Shaivite norms which make insurmountable demands including *sanyas* or renunciation). The BJP undoubtedly complements this by stacking the electoral field, employing vast resources and deploying the state machinery. But it is the socially integrated Sangh that it leans on the most.

Recapturing the mainstream

To reclaim the hearts and minds of our people, we progressives must interrogate our class and moral privileges. We must continue proffering economic/developmental/welfare, linguistic and federal prescriptions. They will work, especially if we make concerted efforts to emphasise the commonality of interests between all communities. But that can only happen if we also re-capture the national pulse (without resorting to the symbolic or performative). This is the ultimate project of national integration. Because society structurally resists change, enlightened leadership has to patiently inspire it to transform. But for an effective re-calibration, that leadership must first be socially accepted as moral arbitrators. This is crucial because while the State has struggled to actualise India's constitutional social revolution for the past 70 years, the only way it will succeed is if that revolution is seeded from below. As Dr. Ambedkar said "social conscience is the only safeguard of all rights, fundamental or non-fundamental".

Therefore, progressive parties must reintegrate themselves at the most granular level, creatively leveraging the mainstream's norms. For example, the Congress Party still has a presence in nearly every village across India. It can thus revitalise its village and mandal units which were originally rooted in socio-cultural life (unlike booth and block units, which are essentially electoral and patronage units). These institutionalised socio-ideological systems can work with sub-caste Dalits, Other Backward Classes and Adivasis; with popular culture; with local religious/spiritual organisations; and organise community activities.

Progressives also have the rare opportunity to mould the "Hindu vote" at the macro level. Ironically, it is the BJP which has provided this opening. In reducing Hinduism to an object of electoral and commercial utility, the BJP has alienated key religious stakeholders (including all four Shankaracharyas, *akharas*, *mutts*, ashrams and religious trusts) who are legitimately disillusioned by the disregard for Hinduism's sanctities. Additionally, some feel threatened by the BJP's efforts to appropriate their temporal, functional and financial powers, which they fear is a subversive endeavour to restructure Hinduism irrevocably. Further, the BJP is estranging India's silent majority which sees through its divisive instrumentalities. It is to circumvent this disenchantment that the BJP is frantically manufacturing fresh controversies in Mathura-Kashi, and raking up Akhand Bharat.

Progressives should ideally leverage this crisis to re-engage religious/spiritual trusts and induce them to implement structural reforms within Hinduism by shedding atavistic dogmas (and thus permanently eschew casteism, patriarchy, communalism and illiberality). This becomes especially imperative because the Supreme Court of India's verdict on the Babri Masjid has clearly not halted the weaponisation of religion or attacks on other religions. Frontally tackling the Sangh's cultural nationalism could also prove to be a golden opportunity for cultivating a constitutional consciousness. After all, Mahatma Phule, Babasaheb Ambedkar (before he converted), Mahatma Gandhi and Rammohan Roy also engaged, challenged and changed Hinduism. In furthering the national interest, shouldn't we?

Foster a sense of Indianness

Even though there is no silver bullet to counter the potent mixture of Hindutva (politicised Hinduism) and *Rashtrawaad* (nationalism) today, progressives can reclaim popular support by fostering a sense of Indianness. We need to reassert what it means to be Indian, and demonstrate common bonds of kinship. This cannot happen through a pan-Indian *hawa* (narrative), which is resource intensive and puts the onus of psychological association on the disinterested. Therefore, progressives must embed themselves in the nation's socio-cultural mainstream and build an ideological superstructure that works top down and bottom up. This normative work requires a high degree of self-insulation from the immediate, and necessitates dynamic entrepreneurship (and hence, boldly disruptive programmes).

It is likely that this could be caricatured as soft-pedalling Hindutva or moral defeatism. It is not. This is a bugle to steel ourselves for the more foundational battle which can stem the weaponisation of Hinduism, and enable the reclamation of India's soul. Any further hesitation will cause irrevocable damage to India's civilisational and constitutional ethos.

A search for deterrence in the Red Sea

Sarabjeet Singh Parmar

a retired captain, is Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies, United Service Institution of India (USI), and the Council for Strategic and Defence Research

Houthi rebels based in Yemen, in response to Israeli attacks and the bombing of Gaza, have been attacking merchant shipping using the Red Sea route. With attacks that began in mid-November, the Houthis, using drones and anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMS), have tried to board or boarded ships. There has even been an instance of the hijacking of the *Galaxy Leader*, using a helicopter.

The various methods and choice of weaponry are an indication of the type of assets available to the rebels and the type of training they are receiving. The United States had removed the Houthis from its terror listing even though Saudi Arabia had warned of the danger of Houthi attacks. But in a new development, the U.S., from mid-February, "will consider the Houthis a specially designated global terrorist" group, which could block its access to the global financial system, among other measures.

Trade disruptions a worry

The situation in the Red Sea is growing in complexity. While the impact on stability is immense, the impact on trade is a growing concern. What is of greater concern is the modern weaponry being used and the inability of nations, both allies and strategic partners, to work together as a team, despite the substantial presence of maritime forces. This also raises questions about the claim of a high degree of interoperability after years of joint defence exercises. It is wise to recall that the efforts to combat piracy took years to take effect even as the adversary was supposed to be a rag tag collection of pirates operating as non-state actors, with any connection to terrorist groups or state actors remaining unproven.

The delayed international response had provided the pirates with time to adapt to modern technologies and adopt tactics such as hijacking ships and using them as mother ships. This has facilitated mid-ocean attacks, which in turn has increased the 'High-Risk Area', with attendant multi-impacts on maritime trade such as rerouting and insurance costs.

> The Houthis appear to be taking advantage of the lack of a coordinated response in ensuring maritime security

The same impacts are re-emerging with similar operational limitations, as hijacked ships that could be used by the Houthis as mother ships to launch attacks and the presence of hostages onboard would limit any hard power response to neutralise the threat.

The present scenario, with Houthi rebels using drones and ASBMS is of great concern. State support to Houthis makes things more complicated, which in this case points to Iran, and perhaps China. The supply of ASBMS, directly or indirectly, points to China, which also raises the issue of missile technology proliferation.

Tepid response from allies

Operation Prosperity Guardian launched by the U.S. which was intended to operate under the Combined Maritime Force's (CMF) Combined Task Force 153 has seen a lacklustre response from allies and strategic partners. This does not instil much confidence in the ability of the U.S. to drive international cooperative mechanisms to address situations that demand the use of hard power.

Out of the nine nations mentioned initially as part of the operation, three North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies of the U.S., i.e., France, Italy, and Spain, declined to be part of the operation, and are operating independently. Bahrain, which houses the U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters, is the only West Asian nation to be a part of the operation.

Saudi Arabia has not joined the operation, perhaps to avoid negative impacts on the Saudi-led negotiations on ending the ongoing war in Yemen, and the recent endeavours to improve relations with Iran. Another major reason could be to avoid being seen as supporting Israel, an aspect which perhaps has also limited the United Arab Emirates from joining the operation.

India, which had joined the CMF as associate partner in 2022 and was upgraded to full member in November 2023, is also operating independently. This could be due to India-Iran relations despite the stoppage of oil imports based on U.S. insistence. Even the U.S.'s allies, Japan and Australia, are yet to join the operation. The apparent inability of Operation Prosperity Guardian to work as a coalition of willing nations indicates the divisions within like-minded nations that support the freedom of navigation and endorse maritime security as a major convergence factor.

Need for calibrated actions

The Houthis are clearly taking advantage of this division and seem to be questioning the status of the U.S. as a global dominant nation. Like piracy, the solution lies on the ground, and the attacks carried out by the U.S. and the U.K. are testament to this approach. Therefore, while combat operational and tactical philosophies dictate that it is more prudent to take out the launchers, there is a need to stop the supply of weaponry. However, Yemen is not Libya, Iraq, or Afghanistan, and, globally, there is a lot more at stake.

The situation does not appear to be under any modicum of control and could deteriorate further. The need for an accepted end state that is achievable in quick time is the essence of the hour. Further actions need to be assessed to avoid a state-on-state confrontation as well as lending legitimacy to the Houthis being seen as a state actor. Most importantly, turning Yemen into a battleground like Lebanon must be avoided.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iowa caucus win

The resounding victory of the 45th POTUS in the early caucus (Iowa) also shows that the problem of criminalisation in politics has become overt for the United States just as it has been for India for decades. Candidates with serious charges against them are not only allowed to contest but can even win, despite the risk of them using their powers to interfere in their cases, in violation of the principles of natural justice. Both nations need to decide for themselves if they wish to make the waters of democracy murky by supporting demagogues.

Anany Mishra,
Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

One more cat

The spate of cheetah deaths at the Kuno National Park is unsettling, especially after another cheetah died after being "perfectly fine and healthy" until January 15. Does a batch need to be moved elsewhere?

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

Under scrutiny

Non-profit organisations/think tanks such as the Centre for Policy Research have faced government action which has included cancellation of the Centre's FCRA licence. Last year, Oxfam India which works on issues such as poverty and gender justice also faced flak. Let action be taken against those who violate the law, but harassment of organisations which do good work is uncalled for.

Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The fading role of universities in society

C.P. Rajendran

is an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; he is the author of the upcoming book, *The Rumbling Earth – The story of India Earthquakes*, to be published by Penguin Random House. All views are personal

The University Grants Commission (UGC)'s directive to universities and colleges in the country to install the Union government's *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* logo on their premises should be treated as another attempt to curtail academic freedom, which is already under siege. This is not a one-off incident. Such diktats from the government have been sent previously too. Earlier, they were asked to conduct activities such as generating awareness on G-20 meetings and *Swachhatha* campaigns. As a repeat of such directives, the UGC, in a letter of December 1, required the colleges to create selfie points featuring the Prime Minister.

While the government's insistence that academic institutes act as carriers of their political propaganda is becoming more trenchant, the concept of universities being vehicles of free thought would fall by the wayside. Ironically, the current ruling establishment is led by those who fought the Emergency of the 1970s – the first attempt to drag independent India towards homogenisation and regimentation of thought. It appears that they are using the same playbook to stifle the higher study centres from maintaining spaces for dissent.

The last year saw several occasions that attempted to throttle academic freedom. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) – the country's top-ranking institute – had to call off a discussion on the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Last March, the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration decided to impose fines to the tune of ₹20,000 for protesting on the campus – a decision withdrawn later. Recently two important scholars resigned from their positions at Ashoka University following the publication of a paper that argued that the ruling party won a disproportionate share of seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Can Democracy survive without dissenters and critical thinkers? What better platform than an academic institute to hold such discussions? Such discussions are crucial in a functioning democracy, regardless of anyone's ideology or belief system. Placing restrictions on the articulation of one's opinion or ideas can negatively impact academic work and hurt research environment.

It is clear that even those who hold top positions in the current ruling dispensation are proud to single out India's role in upholding democratic values. The Prime Minister himself proudly proclaimed that democracy is part of Indian DNA. But what is missing in such performative chest-thumpings is the lack of concern for the freedom to conduct civic discourses that are vital for participatory democracy to thrive. The downward spiral of academic freedom is reflected in India's position in the indices prepared by the V-Dem Institute of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. India's academic freedom index is in the bottom 30% among 179 countries, according to last year's report. On a scale of 0 (low) to 1 (high), India scored 0.38. What's ironic is that this score is lower than India's *bête noire* Pakistan's 0.43. Independent India had seen such low rankings only during the Emergency years.

In recent times, we have seen many such examples of the government intimidating scholars into submission. Unlike in New Zealand, academic freedom is not mentioned in the Indian constitution; it is subsumed in the concept of the right to free speech as a part of the fundamental rights. A guaranteed principle in the Indian constitution, it is subject to reasonable restrictions. The constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech is often hindered by the application of sedition law (Section 124A) or more commonly misused clauses under Section 295A - hurting religious feelings. Defamation lawsuits are now becoming tools of harassment against artists and academic scholars.

The fading academic freedom is also reflected in the gradual erosion of institutional autonomy, including the selection of Vice-Chancellors and heads of academic institutes. The UGC Act of 1956 specifically says that its core function is to monitor the standards in universities, "in consultation with universities". As Niraja Gopal Jayal wrote in one of her essays, the UGC "has seen a steady accretion of power and displayed a heightened propensity to function as an instrument of the ministry". It has now become a common practice, both at the Central and State government levels, to make university appointments on political considerations rather than merit.

In a detailed analysis of academic freedom published in India Forum, Nandini Sundar and Gowhar Fazili say, "Contracts with faculty should include a clause on the protection of academic freedom, i.e., they will not be penalized for extra-mural activities...Global institutions can help by including 'Academic Freedom' as one indicator in university rankings..." It is time that universities formulate system-wide protections against restricting academic autonomy and freedom of expression, taking a leaf out of the Education Act of New Zealand, wherein academic freedom is defined as: "the freedom of academic staff and students, within the law, to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state controversial or unpopular opinions". The political parties, in the larger interest of the nation, must begin consultations with faculty bodies and students' associations to change the current sorry state of academic freedom and autonomy in the country. We are celebrating the 75th year of India's existence as a Republic. It is time to remember that we are yet to realise Tagore's vision of a nation, where the "mind is without fear".

With higher education centres turning into carriers of political propaganda, there is little room for academic freedom or informed public discourse

Adversarial rather than amicable

Congress and Trinamool Congress struggle to forge an alliance in West Bengal

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

In the last week of January, when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's *Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra* will enter West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress leadership is likely to give it a miss. From the start, the Trinamool had made its stance clear. Though Congress and Trinamool are both part of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, the relationship between the two parties has been rocky.

Since she broke away from the Congress party in 1998 to set up Trinamool Congress, party chairperson Mamata Banerjee has often accused the former of not being able to put up a fight against the Left parties in West Bengal till 2011 and against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre.

The only period of respite from the adversary was in 2009-2012 when the Trinamool was part of the Congress-led UPA-II government at the Centre and the two parties came together to defeat the 34-year Left Front government in West Bengal. A year after Trinamool came to power in the State in 2011, it withdrew support for the UPA-II coalition and Congress Ministers resigned from the Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal.

The Trinamool's 12-year rule in West Bengal is marked by the poaching of dozens of Congress legislators and leaders using the carrot-and-stick approach. Over the years, the Congress party's influence has gradually been limited to the districts of Malda and Murshidabad.

Even as Congress's vote share has been diminishing in the State Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has emerged as the only leader to taste success. The five-time MP from Baharampur is also one of the most vocal critics of Ms. Banerjee. He has stated that Trinamool needs Congress more than the Congress needs Trinamool. So, it is no surprise that he is not agreeable to the Trinamool's seat-sharing formula for this year's Lok Sabha polls. While Trinamool is willing to part with only two seats – Baharampur and Malda Dakshin where the Congress won in 2019, Mr. Chowdhury wants to put candidates in at least six seats.

Mr. Chowdhury's personal aversion to Ms. Banerjee's style of governance has made his politics more anti-Trinamool than being opposed to the BJP. Even in the 2011 Assembly polls, he had pitted his candidates against official candidates of the alliance in Murshidabad district. His political future rests on whether he can defend his fiefdom of Baharampur in the upcoming polls.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress has made significant inroads in Malda and Murshidabad districts and does not mind taking on the Congress in the 2024 polls. A section of the leaders of both parties does not want any electoral alliance with the other.

Since 2016, West Bengal has witnessed the rise of the BJP, which has emerged as the principal Opposition party. There have been several instances when the Congress and CPI(M) joined the BJP to take on the Trinamool government over issues of conflict. The violence in last year's panchayat polls, where several Congress supporters were killed allegedly by Trinamool cadre, also makes it difficult for the two parties to come together and contest Lok Sabha polls under an electoral understanding.

Over the past few weeks, Trinamool spokespersons have regularly been targeting the West Bengal Congress for demanding more than two seats. They keep reminding the Congress leadership that the party had failed to win even a single seat in the 2021 Assembly polls, despite allying with CPI(M) and the Indian Secular Front.

With Congress and Trinamool coming together under the INDIA bloc banner, leaders of both parties were expected to rise over local considerations to pose a challenge to the BJP. However, neither the State Congress leadership nor Trinamool's top brass is willing to concede any ground. The CPI(M) leadership in West Bengal has already made it clear that it will not join any alliance with Trinamool and is trying to reach out to the Congress instead.

While it remains to be seen whether the Trinamool or the BJP will gain from a three-cornered contest in West Bengal in 2024 – and the Congress and Trinamool not being able to agree on a seat-sharing formula – the promise of a united Opposition at the national level will not have any takers as far as the electorate of the State is concerned.

Rural girls want to be engineers, doctors but choose arts

Mismatch between aspirations and stream choices was especially stark in Anantnag in J&K U.T.

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Girls and boys in rural India are almost equally aspiring to become doctors or engineers. In fact, the number of girls aspiring to get into these professions is marginally higher than boys, according to the recently released survey data published by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). Their roles reverse when it comes to choosing a stream for higher studies. In grade XI and higher, more boys end up studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses; in contrast, more women choose arts and humanities, the data shows.

Overall, 18.2% of girls and 16.7% of boys aspired to become doctors or engineers. Among boys, 36.3% ended up choosing STEM courses, while only 28% of girls did so. The conclusions are based on ASER's survey among rural students aged 14-18 in 28 districts conducted last September-November.

Chart 1A shows the % of boys aged 14-18 who aspired to become doctors or engineers. **Chart 1B** shows the same for girls in that age group. A high share of students in the Anantnag district of J&K aspired for these professions, leading all the districts surveyed, among both boys and girls.

As expected, a high share of students hailing from districts in the South, especially Ernakulam in Kerala, Perambalur in Tamil Nadu and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh, aspired to become doctors or engineers. Notably, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh too stood out.

However, in Anantnag, there was a mismatch between what students aspired to and what they ended up studying. For instance, 39.5% of boys and 42.8% of girls aspired to become doctors or engineers but only 16.5% of all students ended up choosing STEM courses in grade XI or higher. Such a stark contrast was not recorded in any other district.

In fact, in the southern districts and Varanasi, the share of students who enrolled for STEM courses was much higher than those who aspired to enter such professions. In Ernakulam, Perambalur and Srikakulam, more than 60% of students ended up choosing STEM courses. In Varanasi, 26.7% of girls and 27.1% of boys aspired to enter these professions, and more than 50% of all students ended up choosing STEM courses. Hathras in U.P. also stood out with 66% of students enrolling in STEM courses though much fewer students aspired to enter related professions to start with. **Chart 2** shows the stream chosen by students in grade XI or higher, across districts.

Relatively fewer students aspired to become doctors or engineers in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, West Bengal's Cooch Behar, and Odisha's Sambalpur. This reflected in their choice of streams in higher education with 80% or more students choosing arts or humanities courses. When all districts are considered, more girls than boys opted for arts or humanities courses as shown in **Table 3**.

How many students who chose STEM courses in XI and XII ended up switching to arts and humanities during undergraduation, makes for an interesting reading. While in XI and XII, 33% or more students had chosen STEM streams, by the time they joined college, this share was reduced to just 20% as shown in **Table 4**. Such a stark shift might be due to a lack of funds owing to much costlier STEM courses; intense competition to enter such courses could also have played a role.

Moreover, students who are enrolled in STEM courses outperform arts and humanities students when it comes to reading and math skills. This could be due to the preparations for competitive exams needed to enter colleges that offer better STEM courses.

When reality hits hard

The charts and tables are based on the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 'Beyond Basics'

Chart 1 : The charts show the % of boys and girls aged 14-18 who **aspired** to become doctors or engineers

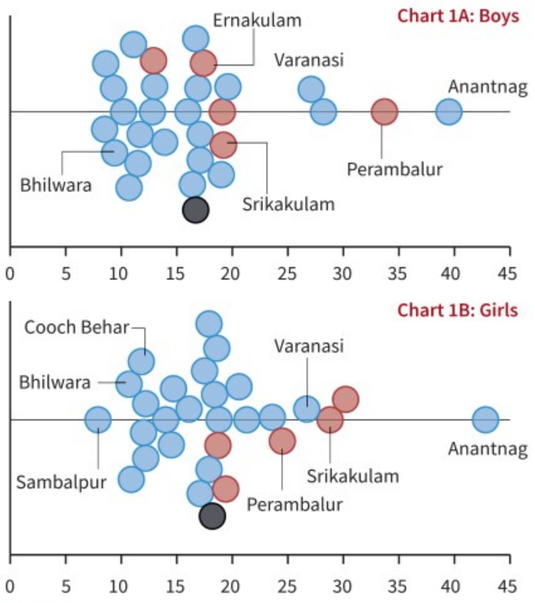

Chart 2 : The chart shows the stream **chosen** by students in grade XI or higher across districts (in %)

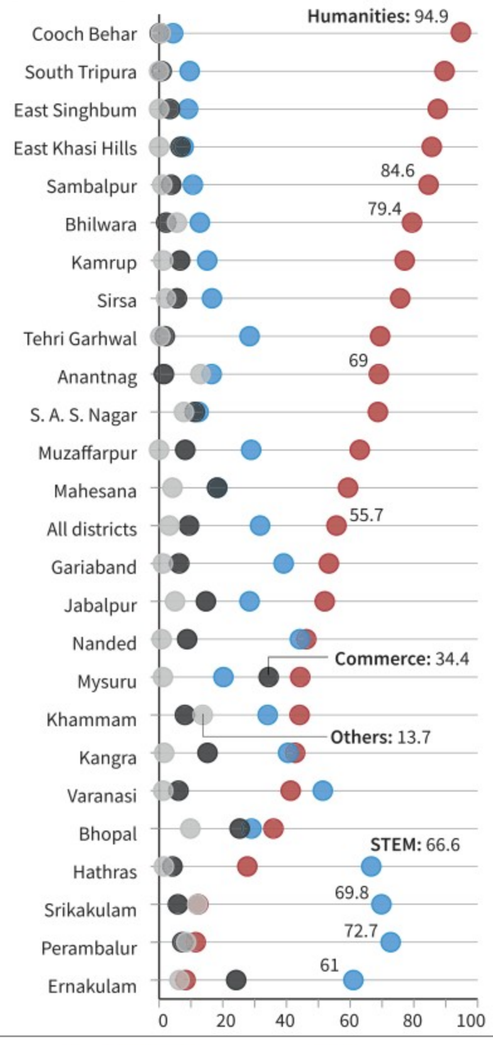

Table 3 : The table shows the stream **chosen** by boys and girls in grade XI or higher (in %)

	Arts*	STEM	Commerce	Others
Boys	49.7	36.3	10.7	3.4
Girls	60.5	28.1	8.4	3

Table 4 : The table shows grade-wise stream **chosen** by students (in %)

Grade/Level	Arts*	STEM	Commerce	Others
XI	54.8	32.9	10	2.3
XII	53.1	35.8	8.4	2.7
UG	63.4	20.3	10.1	6.1

** Arts/humanities*

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 18, 1974

Plot to Blow Up Parliament: Bombs Seized in Bombay

BOMBAY, Jan. 17.

The Bombay Police recovered five bombs, a revolver and 30 rounds of ammunition this week in North Bombay, a high police official said here to-night. The bombs were meant to blow up the Parliament when it was in session last month, the official added.

The police arrested a businessman and four others last month, and after interrogating them, the bombs and ammunition were recovered, it was stated. All the five persons were in custody for further interrogation.

These men had plotted to throw a bomb inside Parliament House and "do away with the Congress leaders in one sweep".

The brain behind the plot was a 27-year-old ex-Serviceman dismissed from the Army for disobedience. He had surveyed the Parliament House and its vicinity and mapped out the entire area.

The police have unearthed a mini-bomb factory in Bombay where the conspirators made powerful crude bombs. One of the conspirators ran the bomb factory. The revolvers were made to order in Saurashtra.

The ex-Serviceman was reported to have said, in his confessional statement, that he and his co-conspirators were fed up with the grinding poverty in the country and wanted to "finish the leaders responsible for this state of affairs and replace them by a new leadership."

The police came upon another clue when three children were injured while playing with a box found from a dustbin in Mallad. The box contained three bombs which exploded.–PTI and UNI.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 18, 1924

French Militarism Attacked

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. In an outspoken speech Mr. Borah in the Senate charged France of lending a large sum of money to European associates while she was unwilling to settle her debts and characterised France as the greatest military power Europe had ever known. He asserted that Americans were meeting the cost of her big arms. He declared that French and Italian statesmen were trying to educate their peoples to repudiate debts.

From Page One

Pak. slams strikes by Iran, recalls envoy

A senior Pakistani security official said Iran had shared no information prior to the strike. He said Pakistan reserved the right to respond at a time and place of the country's choosing and such a strike would be measured and in line with public expectations.

Iranian state media reports, which were later withdrawn without explanation, said the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard targeted bases belonging to the militant group Jaish al-Adl. The group, which seeks an independent Balochistan and has spread across Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, acknowledged the assault in a statement shared online.

Six bomb-carrying drones and rockets struck homes that the militants claim housed children and wives of their fighters.

Jaish al-Adl said the attack killed two children and wounded two women and a teenage girl.

"The dangerous precedent set by Iran is destabilizing and has reciprocal implications," the official said.

Videos shared by the Baloch activist group Hal-Vash, purportedly from the site, showed a burning building and two charred, small corpses.

A Pakistani intelligence report said the two children killed were a six-year-old girl and an 11-month-old boy. Three women were injured, aged between 28 and 35. The report also said three or four drones were fired from the Iranian side, hitting a mosque and other buildings, including a house.

SC to hear appeal by Uddhav camp on Jan. 22

"Upon being mentioned, taken on board. List the Special Leave Petitions on January 22, 2024," the Bench, including Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, recorded in a short order.

The Speaker discerned that Mr. Shinde's faction was the "real political party" from the legislative majority it had commanded at the time the rival factions emerged. " 'Shinde faction' was the 'real Shiv Sena political party' when the rival factions emerged on June 21, 2022," Speaker Rahul Narwekar had announced.

He had also held that since the Shinde faction was the real political party, the Uddhav faction's allegations that it violated the whip could not be sustained. The Speaker dismissed the Uddhav faction's claims that the Shinde faction had become "incommunicado" with the Shiv Sena Legislature Party leadership after the "split' as a "mere allegation".

'Act tough on incitement to violence, hate speech'

"The DMs and SPs concerned will take necessary steps as may be required. If necessary and deemed appropriate, police/administration will install CCTV cameras having recording facility so as to ensure the identification of the perpetrators in the event of any violence/hate speech," it said.

Mr. Sibal's client alleged that the Samiti was "actively involved in organising events where speeches are delivered openly demonising Muslims and calling for their boycott".

The application said an event organised on January 3 at Solapur (Maharashtra) saw "hate speeches targeting Muslims delivered openly". It said the "same organisation held several events on January 7, 2024 under the pretext of establishing a Hindu Rashtra".

"They even publish books to spread so-called awareness about the manner in which Muslims engage in 'love jihad'," the application noted.

Trade unions announce strike on February 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha announced a rural strike on February 16, the Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) announced an industrial strike on the same day.

Announcing the decision at a joint press conference here on Wednesday, the leaders of the SKM and the CTUs said roads and rails will be blocked and processions and picketing will be held before the Central Government offices against the policies of the Narendra Modi government. The leaders said 22 political parties have pledged support to their demand charter. "This government is continuously carrying on barbarous onslaughts on the lives and livelihood of the toiling people as a whole and aggressively pursuing anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-people measures through various legislations, executive orders and policy drives," they said.

India defends Iran, cites its position against terrorism

Ministry of External Affairs says India understands actions in self-defence; Iran's strikes inside Pakistan had come just a day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Tehran

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has backed Iran in its missile attack on alleged terror camps in Pakistan's Balochistan Province, calling it an act of "self-defence".

In a statement late on Wednesday, a day after the Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired missiles at what it said were two "important" bases of the Jaish al-Adl terror group in Balochistan, India's Ministry of External Affairs said that while the issue was a bilateral one between Iran and Pakistan, India had an "uncompromising" position on terrorism. Significantly, the Ministry did not comment on Iran's strikes against Kurdish areas in Iraq, as well as in Syria, all of which took place on the same day.

"This is a matter between Iran and Pakistan," the Ministry's spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in

> Insofar as India is concerned, we have an uncompromising position towards terrorism
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

a statement. "Insofar as India is concerned, we have an uncompromising position of zero tolerance towards terrorism. We understand actions that countries take in their self-defence."

The strikes had come just a day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Iran, where he met Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and held talks with Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian. Mr. Jaishankar is due to meet Mr. Abdollahian in Uganda for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries on January 19-20, while the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council is expected in India shortly for talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, indicating Delhi and Tehran are stepping up their diplomatic engagement. India's comments defending Iran's actions indicate support for Iran despite the growing tensions in West Asia between Iran and the U.S. over Israel's war on Gaza, U.S. strikes on Yemen and attacks by Houthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea. Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council, has condemned the strikes against Iraq, calling them "reckless and imprecise". Pakistan's Foreign Ministry reacted sharply to the strikes, recalling its Ambassador from Tehran and cancelling all high-level visits, as did Iraq. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that two children had been killed as a result of Iran's "unprovoked violation". However, Pakistan's caretaker PM Anwar ul Haq Kakar met with Mr. Abdollahian at the Davos forum on January 17, who insisted that the strikes had only targeted terrorists not citizens of "neighbours, friends and brothers" Iraq and Pakistan.

"What we did was aimed at boosting the security of Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, and the region. We consider the security of Iraq and Pakistan to be that of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Mr. Abdollahian said, reiterating the message in a telephone conversation with the Acting Pakistani Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani.

No CM is above the law, says Governor of Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan on Wednesday dismissed apprehensions about law-and-order problems in the State, ahead of Chief Minister Hemant Soren's scheduled questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in relation to an alleged land scam case.

"ED is doing its duty and it is the duty of the CM to give the right answers to ED. No CM is above the law," the Governor told presspersons, during an interaction on the sidelines of a university event in Ranchi.

Mr. Soren has finally agreed to record his statement before the ED at the State Secretariat, after skipping eight previous summons. On January 13, the ED wrote to the CM, asking him to be available for questioning in the case between January 16 and 20. The ED is now likely to interrogate Mr. Soren on January 20.

Disproportionate act: CPR on cancellation of its FCRA licence

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Centre for Policy Research (CPR) diverted foreign donations to fund "protests and legal battles against developmental projects" and misutilised foreign contributions to "affect India's economic interests", a source in the government said on Wednesday. As reported first by *The Hindu* on Wednesday, the Union Home Ministry on January 10 cancelled its FCRA registration, making the organisation ineligible to receive foreign donations.

The government accused the think tank of violating the foreign fund norms as it engaged in the production of current affairs programmes. The government said publishing current affairs programmes using foreign funds is prohibited under Section 3 of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The said section prohibits acceptance of foreign funds by political parties, public servants, judges, journalists, and the publisher of a registered newspaper or a company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news or audiovisual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode.

The CPR said in a statement that the Ministry's decision was incomprehensible and disproportionate. "This includes the publication on our website of policy reports emanating from our research being equated with current affairs programming," the CPR said.

The source said that the CPR's FCRA registration certificate was cancelled for several violations of the FCRA, 2010. "Funds found to be used for litigation matters include cases against coal mines/plants," the source added.

The Congress said it was sad as well as amusing that a think tank of scholars should scare the Narendra Modi government. "The Narendra Modi government feared CPR for its uprightness and has resorted to a vindictive act," All India Professionals Congress chairman Praveen Chakravarty.

2 police personnel killed in Manipur's Moreh; State asks Centre for 'air assets'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two police personnel were killed in an exchange of fire with armed miscreants in Manipur's Moreh on Wednesday, prompting the State government to ask the Union government to send helicopters to deal with the situation. The town of Moreh, which lies along the Myanmar border, has witnessed several instances of firing between Manipur police commandos and armed miscreants over the past week.

The Kuki-Zo community which dominates the area has demanded the removal of the State police from Moreh as most police personnel belong to the Meitei community. A large number of personnel from the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force and other Central armed police forces (CAPFs) are deployed.

The Manipur government has requested the Union Home Ministryfor "air assets" – meaning, helicopters – in the wake of the "continued exchange of fire between State police commandos and armed miscreants in the border town of Moreh", according to a letter from T. Ranjit Singh, Commissioner (Home), Manipur. The letter added that one Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) member was killed on Wednesday morning.

Moreh town, which lies along the Myanmar border, witnessed several instances of firing.

"... In view of the prevalent situation, the situation may deteriorate further in Moreh, and medical emergency may arise any time. The Police Department has also informed that there is also need for airlifting of security personnel, ammunition, etc. to Moreh," the letter states. The letter requested the Centre to treat the issue as "very important and urgent".

The new agency PTI reported that the dead police personnel were identified as Takhellambam Saileshwore and Wangkhem Somorjit, an IRB man attached to the State police commandos in Moreh. The news agency cited police reports that suspected Kuki militants had attacked a vehicle of the security forces in Moreh, adding that the security forces exchanged fire with suspected Kuki militants in three locations in Moreh town on Wednesday morning.

L. Premchand, a spokesperson for the joint action committee formed in connection with the killing of Somorjit, told reporters that "the body of the deceased personnel will not be accepted by the family members till the culprits are arrested and brought to justice". Wearing traditional mourning dresses, women sat in the middle of the road to prevent all forms of vehicular movement on the route.

(With inputs from PTI)

CBI files chargesheets against five in arms loot case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against five accused persons in a case related to the loot of arms and ammunition from the Manipur Police Training College (MPTC) in Imphal's Pangei on May 4 last year.

Among those named in the chargesheet, which has been submitted before a Guwahati court in Assam, are Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit, and Keisham Johnson alias Jhonson.

The CBI registered the case on June 9, 2023, by taking over the investigation of a first information report (FIR) dated May 4, 2023, filed at the Heingang police station in Imphal East. As alleged in the FIR, a mob stormed the MPTC Pangei complex and took away a huge cache of arms and ammunition from the armoury during the ethnic conflict which had broken out in the State.

Navy to have mixed marching contingent at Republic Day parade

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Nation's pride: Navy personnel during rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on Wednesday. REUTERS

The Indian Navy currently has over 1,100 women Agniveers in service, including the fourth batch undergoing training, Vice-Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Navy's Controller Personnel Services, has said. The Navy has begun to recruit women Agniveers as musicians and sportspersons.

"The Navy is parading a mixed composition platoon for the first time, wherein 144 young men and women will be marching down the historic Kartavya path, shoulder to shoulder epitomising Navy's commitment towards gender neutrality," Vice-Admiral Singh said at the Navy's Republic Day press preview on Wednesday.

The Navy has a total of 7,687 Agniveers, of which 1,119 are women. There are around 680 women officers in the force. This Republic Day parade will have triservice women marching contingent for the first time, officials said.

The Navy's tableau for 2024 is a representation of two themes – *Nari Shakti*, women in force in all roles and across all ranks and indigenisation. The central theme revolves around '*Aatmanirbharta*' showcasing milestones achieved by Bharat.

Fertilizer subsidies likely to come down, says Mandaviya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Fertilizer Minister Manuskh Mandaviya said here on Wednesday that consistent steps taken by the Narendra Modi government were leading to self-reliance in fertilizers production and a decrease in fertilizer subsidies.

He was speaking to presspersons about his new book *Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertiliser Self-Sufficiency*. The Minister said the country had adequate stocks of fertilizers for the ongoing rabi and upcoming kharif seasons.

Asked about the subsidy, he said it was likely to come down and was estimated at around ₹1.7-1.8 lakh crore.

Mansukh Mandaviya

"We have not increased retail prices to reduce subsidy," he said.

On the attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea, he said it would not create any shortage of fertilizers in India. "Ministry of External Affairs is making necessary interventions and our Navy is giving protection to Indian cargo vessels," he said.

Delhi Police to train around 8,800 investigators in new criminal laws in first phase

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As the Union government prepares to roll out the three new criminal laws, first in the Union Territories, the Delhi Police have charted an exhaustive training schedule for those responsible for investigations.

To begin with, around 8,800 personnel, particularly field officers and those posted at police stations, will get training till March 30 so that they become well versed in the new laws. The training session began on Wednesday.

Chhaya Sharma, Special Commissioner of Police (Training), said the aim was to complete the training for all investigating officials in the next six months. The Delhi Police have a strength of around 80,000 personnel.

Booklets describing the laws in simple language will be distributed to the officials and at the end of the training session, they will have to take a written test. If an official is unable to clear the paper, he or she will have to repeat the sessions. After the completion of the training, the officials will have to attend a refresher course.

Ms. Sharma said the booklet will include step-by-step process on what should be done when a crime takes place. "We will have to train the officials in videographing and geotagging the crime scenes also. Since BNSS [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita] mandates audio-video recording of all search and seizure, the officials will have to not only record the video but also explain the surroundings as was being done through maps and papers earlier," she said.

Ms. Sharma said they have consciously included operators who handle the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems as the entire focus is on digitisation of the criminal law procedure. "We will also train record keepers of police station and *maalkhana* (evidence room) incharge as they will be the custodians of the case property," she said.

AAP hints at going solo in Punjab for LS election

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Even as the INDIA bloc partners have been mulling over seat sharing in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the suspense over the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) jointly contesting the polls in Punjab continued as AAP leader and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday asserted that his party would win all the 13 seats in the State.

Mr. Mann's remark, indicating that his party would contest all 13 Lok Sabha seats alone, has come at a time when the AAP and the Congress have joined hands to contest the Chandigarh mayoral elections on Thursday.

Mr. Mann also hit out at Congress leader and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, describing him as a "fugitive who ran away from discharging duty when he was offered the charge of Power Minister".

Several senior leaders of the Congress, including the Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, have been against an alliance with the AAP.

Rahul accuses BJP, RSS of attacking different cultures

The Congress leader slams PM for the poor condition of roads that connect Nagaland to Assam as he shares a video; he spends another day in Nagaland as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, whose Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is travelling through Northeast India, is likely to visit a Lord Shiva temple on January 22, the day when the consecration ceremony will be held at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, said a source on Wednesday.

"Actually I don't know. I will have to check and let you know. We will be on the yatra route, probably in Assam," Mr. Gandhi said on Tuesday when asked about his plans for January 22.

Among Opposition leaders, Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced that she would be in the Kali Ghat temple in Kolkata and hold an all-faith prayer meet.

A senior leader of the Assam Congress told *The Hindu* that the yatra was likely to reach near Guwahati on January 22.

Warm welcome: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being greeted by local people during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, in Nagaland on Wednesday. PTI

"He [Mr. Gandhi] could visit a temple in Lokhra, but it's not yet final. We still don't have the latest itinerary," he said.

Mr. Gandhi is scheduled to have a public interaction in the city on January 23 as part of the Congress Manifesto Committee's exercise to seek public feedback.

On Day Four, the yatra spent another day in Nagaland, where the Congress leader accused the BJP and RSS of attacking different cultures and languages.

"There is an ideological war going on in India. The RSS and the BJP are attacking the different cultures in this country... As an Indian, it is my duty to respect these cultures, these traditions, these histories," Mr. Gandhi said in one of his public interactions in Nagaland.

The Congress leader also took to X to share the poor condition of the roads that connected Nagaland to Assam.

"Mr. Prime Minister, Your tall claims of development demand first-hand experience. Have you braved the broken roads that Nagaland's people navigate daily," he asked on X, sharing a video of a bumpy road.

Sushilkumar Shinde says BJP made offers to him

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde on Wednesday said that both he and his daughter, MLA Praniti Shinde, had received offers to join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) even as the Maharashtra BJP denied the claim.

Speaking during a local programme at Akkalkot in Solapur district, Mr. Shinde, who was the Maharashtra Chief Minister for a brief period in 2004, revealed the BJP had allegedly tried to lure him twice with offers to join the saffron party, but that he had firmly declined.

The veteran Congressman claimed that "a top BJP leader" had made him the offer, but said that neither he nor his daughter were the sort to switch loyalties.

He refused to name who in the BJP had made him the offer.

BJP State president Chandrashekhar Bawankule dismissed Mr. Shinde's claims, stating that his party had made no such offers.

INBRIEF

Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad not to attend Ram Temple event

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday declined the invitation to attend the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya on January 22, stating that he would visit the temple at leisure once its construction was complete. He had earlier stated that he would avoid visiting owing to the massive crowds on that day. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, an important alliance partner from the Opposition INDIA bloc, also announced that he will not attend the Ram Temple ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22.

Bombay HC issues notice to Maharashtra Speaker, 14 MLAs

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar and the 14 MLAs supporting Uddhav Thackeray, responding to petitions filed by the Shiv Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The petitions challenge the Speaker's decision to refrain from disqualifying the MLAs. The Chief Whip of the Shinde camp, Bharat Gogawale, has filed the petitions. A Division Bench directed the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat and all respondents to submit their affidavits, scheduling the hearing for February 8.

Shashi Tharoor calls airport chaos 'govt.-made disaster'

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor called the persistent flight delays due to fog and the ensuing chaos at airports a "Modi government-made disaster", prompting the Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to hit back, calling Mr. Tharoor an armchair critic. On Tuesday night, Mr. Tharoor posted a long thread on X, alleging India's aviation sector is in a sorry state and that the Ministry has not been able to ensure airports in Delhi and other Indian cities are of such global standard that aircraft can land even in zero visibility.

Cancelled all events to avoid clash with yatra: Assam CM

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he had cancelled all official programmes in the eastern part of the State to avoid a clash with the events associated with the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of the Congress party. The programmes on January 18 and 19 were fixed much before the government knew Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would embark upon the yatra. "His yatra clashed with the dates of our welfare programmes involving the distribution of ration cards. The cancellation of our programmes was a gesture as we do not want the district authorities to face difficulties," Dr. Sarma said on Tuesday evening.

Akhilesh hints at giving Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra a miss

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Neither the Congress nor the BJP invites us to their programmes, says the SP chief

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday hinted at giving a miss to the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra led by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in Uttar Pradesh. "Neither the Congress nor the BJP invites us to their programmes," Mr. Yadav said at a press conference in Lucknow while flagging off "*Samvidhan Bachao, Desh Bachao* Samajwadi *Pichde*, Dalit, *Alpasankhyak* (Backwards, Dalit, Minority) Yatra" of the SP.

Earlier, the Congress leaders said the Opposition Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc partners, including the SP, will be invited to join the yatra. The yatra will spend 11 days, covering 1,074 km and passing through 20 districts, in the politically crucial State between February 14 and 25. It will pass through Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi's constituency, Rae Bareli, Mr. Gandhi's former constituency, Amethi, currently represented by Union Minister Smriti Irani, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Bareilly, Agra and other districts. Among the States, the yatra will spend the most time in Uttar Pradesh.

The SP chief said that his party had taken a pledge to fulfil the dreams of socialists like Ram Manohar Lohia and Mulayam Singh through his party's yatra, adding it will cover many districts of the State.

"The yatra is aimed at uniting backwards, minorities, Dalits and also upper castes," he said.

The Congress and the SP, partners in the INDIA bloc, share a love-hate relation. In the recent Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, their seat-sharing negotiations failed, resulting in a political slugfest, with Mr. Yadav even cautioning INDIA bloc parties that if elections would be fought with confusion, it would not result in success as the ruling BJP is an organised party.

Silver idol of Ram Lalla taken in procession at Ayodhya temple

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A silver idol of Ram Lalla was taken in a procession around the premises of the Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya on Wednesday in continuation of the rituals performed in the run-up to the January 22 consecration ceremony.

However, it is not the idol that will be placed in the *sanctum sanctorum* on January 22. This silver idol was placed inside a palanquin decorated with flowers, with a priest walking with a *kalash* (pot) on his head in front of it.

The real idol, which is heavy, was brought to the temple late on Wednesday evening.

Rituals in the run-up to the consecration ceremony scheduled for January 22 started at the temple complex on Tuesday with *Prayaschita* and *Karmakuti Poojan*.

On January 18, the *Teerth Poojan*, *Jal Yatra*, and *Gandhadhivas* are scheduled to take place. On January 20, 21 *Pushpadhivas*, *Shayadhivas* and *Madhyadhivas* are scheduled. A total of 121 priests are conducting the rituals, with Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, a noted priest, coordinating all the proceedings of the *Anushthan* (rituals). The principal priest is Lakshmikant Dixit of Varanasi.

The grand Ram Temple consecration ceremony will take place on January 22, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be present.

More than 7,000 people, including leading personalities from all walks of life such as politicians, industrialists, saints, and celebrities, will be attending the grand opening, apart from more than 100 representatives from different countries.

The idol of Ram Lalla with Bharat, Laxman and Shatrughna in Ayodhya. ANI

Odisha CM unveils Puri heritage corridor project

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday unveiled the Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa, a peripheral development project around Puri's Shree Jagannath Temple.

Mr. Patnaik reached Puri at the end of three days of rituals performed at the temple.

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Sd/- MD&CEO, ASSCCL, Vijayawada

Congress to crowdsource ideas for its poll manifesto

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aiming for a "people's manifesto", the Congress on Wednesday launched a website and an e-mail ID inviting suggestions from the public for its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"The present exercise is to receive suggestions from the members of the public. This will be a people's manifesto. So it is important to gather as many suggestions as possible in the few weeks available to us. We hope people from every walk of life will give their suggestions to make it a people's manifesto," Congress leader P. Chidambaram, who heads the manifesto committee, said at a press conference in the capital.

"The idea is to hold at least one consultation in each State. In some States, more than one public consultation may be held," he said.

Asked if their INDIA bloc allies would also be consulted, the Congress leader said anyone who wished to attend the consultation was welcome, but leaders of the parties in the bloc had to decide collectively if there needed to be a closed-door discussion on a common manifesto.

"If the ally parties of the INDIA group wish to attend the consultation, they are most welcome.... Whether there will be higher-level consultation will be for the Congress president to decide," Mr. Chidambaram said.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the suggestions can be given on the website awaazbharatki.in or by e-mailing to awaazbharatki@inc.in.

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Availability of Bid documents: 24.01.2024 @ 16:00 Hrs onwards.
Last date for bid submission: 07.02.2024 @ 16:00 Hrs.
Opening of Technical Bids: 09.02.2024 @ 16:00 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting: 30.01.2024 @ 11:00 Hrs.

Sl No.	Enquiry No's	Name of the Division
1.	BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT84	Tiptur
2.	BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT85	Tumkur
1.	BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT86	Nelamangala

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INBRIEF

IndiGo fined ₹1.5 crore for allowing flyers to sit on apron

Aviation regulatory bodies have imposed a fine of ₹1.5 crore on IndiGo and ₹90 lakh on the Mumbai airport as passengers sat on the airport apron and had food following a flight diversion due to long delays owing to fog in New Delhi. Fines were imposed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which oversees airport and aircraft security, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which monitors safety of air travellers. The DGCA also fined Air India and Spicejet ₹30 lakh each for not deploying sufficient pilots qualified to fly in low-visibility conditions in December, resulting in cancellations, delays and flight diversions.

'Airline caterers must comply with food safety regulations'

Having issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo after a passenger complained about a worm crawling in a sandwich served on a flight recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) met with leading flight caterers and airlines earlier this week to evaluate the existing food safety protocols within the airline catering industry. "The objective was to identify areas requiring improvement and to reinforce the commitment to providing passengers with safe and high-quality inflight meals," an FSSAI release said on Wednesday. It has highlighted the importance of menu labelling as a powerful tool to inform passengers about the food served.

Ex-Minister's house among several places searched by ED

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has searched eight locations in Rajasthan's Jaipur and Banswara, including the residence of former State Minister Mahesh Joshi, in connection with the alleged Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scam. The premises of some Public Health Engineering Department officials were also searched by the agency, which is conducting a money laundering probe based on an FIR registered by the Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Branch. During the search, ₹39 lakh of unaccounted-for cash and various incriminating documents including property details, digital evidence and mobile phones were seized.

Global meet on agriculture systems gets under way today

Developing an investment forum in agriculture sector is the key agenda of the two-day conclave on "Advancing climate resilient agri-food systems in India" beginning in New Delhi on Thursday. Jointly organised by the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the conclave will discuss an investment and partnership strategy to advance climate resilient agri-food systems among governments, private sector, and farmers' organisations. Takayuki Hagiwara, FAO Representative in India, said one of the main areas of discussion is how prepared the world is to face challenges of climate change.

Rainfall rising in over half of India's sub-districts, says four-decade study

About 11% of tehsils witnessed reducing rainfall, of which 87% saw a decline during the critical kharif sowing months; many districts saw extreme deficiencies and excesses even during 'normal' monsoon; several tehsils of Maharashtra, Goa, Odisha, West Bengal report increasing winter rainfall

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Rainfall is increasing in more than half of India's 4,400-odd tehsils or sub-districts, says a granular analysis of changes in the Indian monsoon, conducted for the first time at the tehsil level. While 55% of tehsils have seen a rise in rainfall, about 11% have experienced a fall.

Worryingly, the decrease occurred largely during the critical southwest monsoon. In fact, of the tehsils experiencing lower rainfall, about 68% saw reduced rainfall in all the monsoon months from June to September, while 87% showed a decline during the initial monsoon months of June and July, which are crucial for the sowing of kharif crops. Most of these tehsils are in the Indo-Gangetic plains – which contribute to more than half of India's agricultural production – as well as in northeastern India and the Indian Himalayan region.

The study – authored by Shravan Prabhu and Vishwas Chitale of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a research and policy think tank – analyses high-resolution meteorological data spanning four decades, from 1982 to 2022, which has been recorded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

District-level extremes

India collectively experienced 29 "normal", eight "above-normal", and three "below-normal" monsoon years during that period. But an analysis at the district level reveals that 30% of India's districts witnessed several more years of deficient rainfall and 38% saw many years of excessive rainfall. In fact, 23 districts – including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Nilgiris, Jaipur, Kutch, and Indore – experienced both extremes, with a higher number of deficient and excessive rainfall years. Several tehsils in Rajasthan, Gujarat, central Maharashtra and parts of Tamil Nadu, which have historically been dry regions, have also been getting wetter, tying in with the finding that a majority of tehsils have been reporting increasing rainfall.

In-depth: The study analyses high-resolution meteorological data from 1982 to 2022 that has been recorded by IMD. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"In our study of localised wet rainfall extremes, we found that nearly 64% of Indian tehsils experienced an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall days by one to 15 days a year in the past decade during the southwest monsoon. This pattern is prominent in the tehsils of States with the highest GDPs - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka. Further, we found that in tehsils experiencing increase in rainfall during the southwest monsoon, the excess is coming from short-duration, heavy rainfall events," the authors note.

'Erratic rain patterns'

Rainfall from the northeast monsoon, which sets in during October, November and December, primarily in peninsular India, has increased by more than 10% over the past decade (2012-2022) in approximately 80% of tehsils in Tamil Nadu, 44% in Telangana, and 39% in Andhra Pradesh, respectively. The southwest monsoon accounts for nearly 76% of India's annual rainfall, with about 11% coming from the northeast monsoon.

While the remaining Indian States are usually dry during this period, several tehsils of Maharashtra and Goa on the west and Odisha and West Bengal on the east coast have been reporting increasing rainfall during winter. This increase could partly be attributed to cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

"As India readies for the Union Budget, it will be crucial to focus on future-proofing the economy against increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. The monsoons impact the food we eat, the water we drink and also our energy transition," Dr. Chitale said in a statement.

CERT-IN takes over 11 months to plug vulnerabilities exposing personal data

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A critical vulnerability that exposed the personal details of top industrialists, celebrities, sports personalities and others in the country has been fixed by the Corporate Affairs Ministry months after a cybersecurity expert flagged the issue.

Sai Krishna Kothapalli, founder and CEO of Hackrew Infosec, who came across the vulnerability by chance and flagged it to the Computer Emergency Response Team, India (CERT-IN) on January 16, 2023, confirmed that the problem appeared to have been resolved after 11 months on December 20. However, suspecting theft or abuse of the sensitive data, he has called for an investigation.

It was during Pongal holidays last year that Mr. Sai Krishna, while working on a security tool called "Eagle Eye", stumbled upon personal details in documents such as Aadhaar, PAN, voter identity card and passport and date of birth, contact number and communication address of such persons. This vulnerability exposed the personal details of nearly 98 lakh directors of Indian companies. "This is a story on how personal data of prominent personalities such as Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Shah Rukh Khan, Virat Kohli and many other influential people was freely available online due to a vulnerability in a government portal," Mr. Sai Krishna told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Image used for representation. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Mr. Sai Krishna said he was preparing a proof of concept for "Eagle Eye", which was capable of detecting secrets and sensitive information from websites, when he visited the website of the Ministry.

"The next day, I noticed something interesting while going through the logs. I didn't realise the 'Eagle Eye' tool I was prototyping was running in the background while browsing the MCA website. That night, it picked something up. There was some PII [Personal Identifiable Information] like email and phone numbers that were in the HTTP response but not there in the rendered HTML. This means that the browser received some data that is not shown anywhere on the screen," he said.

This was a generic type of vulnerability usually present in Web and mobile applications. "I was shocked. In front of my eyes, I had all the personal details of very important persons which were available for any individual or agency in India or abroad to access and even abuse. Such information is a jackpot for scammers. In a recent incident, scammers duped banks to the tune of ₹50 lakh just by using PAN numbers of some VIPs," he said. But what came as a rude shock to Mr. Sai Krishna was that despite passing on the alert to CERT-IN, the vulnerability remained for a few months. It took 11 months and four days for the critical issue that leaked personally identifiable information of approximately 98 lakh Indians, including many high net-worth individuals, to get resolved.

CERT-IN reply

When the issue was first flagged to CERT-IN on January 16, 2023, the security researcher received a reply by e-mail stating that the complaint was registered and appropriate action would be taken.

With no reply after that and the vulnerability persisting, Mr. Sai Krishna wrote to the Director-General, CERT-IN on July 31, 2023 to which he received a mail three days later saying the vulnerability had been communicated to the authorities concerned for an early resolution. On September 8, 2023, CERT-IN informed him that the issue had been resolved. But when he checked, the vulnerability was persisting.

"There are a lot of companies openly selling the contact information [e-mail and phone numbers] of directors online. I don't know if this vulnerability has been exploited. I have requested for a thorough investigation," he said.

Over half of youth struggling with basic maths: ASER study

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), titled "Beyond Basics", was released here on Wednesday. It involved a survey by the civil society organisation Pratham among rural students aged 14 to 18.

The household survey, conducted in 28 districts across 26 States, assessed the foundational reading and arithmetic abilities of 34,745 students. It discussed the activities students are engaged in, their basic and applied reading and maths abilities and digital awareness and skills.

"Overall, 86.8% of 14- to 18-year-olds are enrolled in an educational institution. There are small gender gaps in enrolment, but notable differences are visible by age. The percentage of youth not enrolled is 3.9% for 14-year-old youth and is 32.6% for 18-year-olds," the report said.

Most of the people in this age group were enrolled in the Arts/Humanities stream. In Class 11 or higher, more than half are enrolled in the Arts/Humanities stream (55.7%) and girls are less likely to be enrolled in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics stream (28.1%) than boys (36.3%), it said.

Basic abilities

On abilities such as basic reading, maths and English abilities; application of basic skills to everyday calculations; reading and understanding written instructions; and financial calculations that need to be done in real life, about 25% still cannot read a Class 2 level text fluently in their regional language.

"More than half struggle with division (3-digit by 1-digit) problems. Only 43.3% of 14-18-year-olds are able to do such problems correctly. This skill is usually expected in Standard III/IV," the report said.

A little over half can read sentences in English (57.3%). "Of those who can read sentences in English, almost three quarters can tell their meanings (73.5%)," the report added.

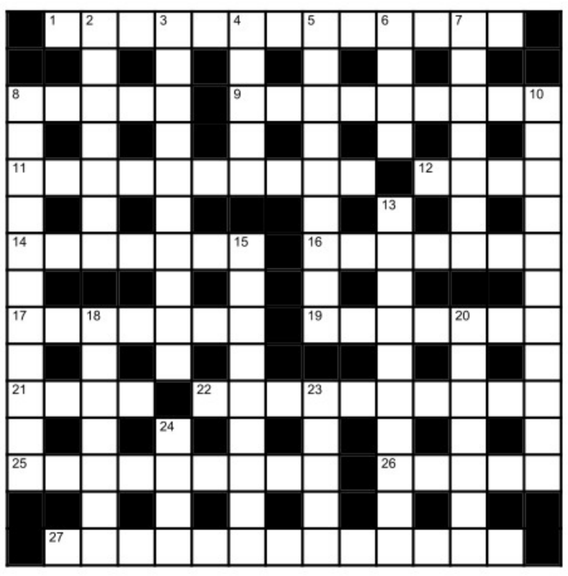
Close to 90% of all youth have a smartphone in the household and know how to use it.

TH CROSSWORD + 14074

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Betrayal essentially! Partner and thin babe cavorting in bed (4,2,3,4)
8 Propose on vacation in bar to get hitched (5)
9 Rushed back with budget report (9)
11 Fight with fellow breaking key device on camera (10)
12 Ring stolen by cad is costly (4)
14 Old British soldier in art deco building (7)
16 Revolutionary technique protecting long cartilaginous tube (7)
17 Great old banyan, say, outside entrance to mandir (7)
19 Degenerate consuming ecstasy after drink performed the Cuban dance (7)
21 Member tackling unionist in plant (4)
22 Wife shouting without limits constantly? Fancy that! (4,1,5)
25 Female entering topless - bust's impressive (9)
26 Confess about drinking whiskey at university (3,2)
27 Analysed best teams - they succeed by circumventing rules (4,3,6)

Down

2 Highest ranked player in river returned after recurrent trouble (3,4)
3 Comfortable situation that might get prickly? (3,2,5)
4 Sheer fabric from salon in Ontario (5)
5 Farm worker runs after swift animal snatching undergarment (9)
6 Base of toe crushed by nasty ball (4)
7 Ice supplied to top hotel for Scottish social event (7)
8 Boxer's last two vertebrae injured in ring (11)
10 Smooch a stunner heartily with abandon outside club? Totally! (4,3,4)
13 Mellow husband turned amorous, cuddling up at home (10)
15 In addition to that article, write about latest in research (9)
18 Very strong taste of liquorice in authentic sweet (7)
20 Move forward with a leap after securing victory (7)
23 Picked up escorts in English city (5)
24 A little scissor to trim tail (4)

SUDOKU

		7	1	3	2			
	3				4	9		6
2	5				8			
7	4		2					
		3				2		
					3		5	4
			8				4	7
8		9	4				3	
			3	6	7	5		

No.SS6041 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	B	A	N	D	O	N	M	E	N	T				
B		M		E		E		M		H		C		K
S	C	A	T	T	E	R		P	U	R	P	O	S	E
T		I		E		V		E		E		N		Y
I	N	N	E	R		O	U	R	S	E	L	V	E	S
N				G		U		O				I		
E	A	G	L	E		S	U	R	R	O	U	N	D	S
N		U		N						R		C		T
T	R	E	A	T	M	E	N	T		C	L	E	A	R
		S				N		A		H				A
D	I	S	C	A	R	D	E	D		E	A	T	E	N
A		I		W		L		P		S		W		G
M	A	N	M	A	D	E		O	U	T	L	I	N	E
P		G		R		S		L		R		C		L
				D	E	S	P	E	R	A	T	E	L	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	4	5	9	1	6	3	8
6	9	3	7	8	4	5	1	2
8	5	1	6	2	3	4	9	7
7	2	8	3	6	5	1	4	9
4	1	5	2	7	9	8	6	3
3	6	9	4	1	8	2	7	5
1	3	2	9	5	6	7	8	4
9	8	7	1	4	2	3	5	6
5	4	6	8	3	7	9	2	1

FAITH

Thirukkurungudi celebrated

The tenth mantra of the Apratiratha Sukta can be taken to refer to the Vishnu kshetra – Thirukkurungudi, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. The word dhvaja, used in the mantra, has many meanings, one of which is linga. To the right of the Thirukkurungudi shrine is the Mahendra hill, which itself looks like a linga. There is a painting of a linga in the left wall of the sanctum sanctorum. There is a separate shrine for Siva to the north of the main shrine of Vishnu. This Siva is referred to as Mahendragirinatha. Siva got rid of Brahma's curse in this kshetra. Siva received nectar here and was also taught the Sudarsana mantra, and was asked to stay on in the temple. This legend of Siva's release from Brahma's curse is repeated in places like Badri and Thirukkandiyur in Tamil Nadu, because the same leela of Lord Narayana is repeated in many kalpas.

Priests who serve in the Badrinarayana temple first come to Thriukkurungudi to worship Vishnu, who is called Nambi. Thirukkurungudi Nambi honoured Ramanujacharya by learning the Ashtakshara mantra from the Acharya. Vishnu is seen in the Thirukkurungudi temple in five forms – Malai mel Nambi (Lord on the hill), Nindra Nambi (standing posture), Kidanda Nambi (reclining posture), Irunda Nambi (sitting posture) and Vadivazhagiya Nambi (the One with a beautiful form).

PARIS

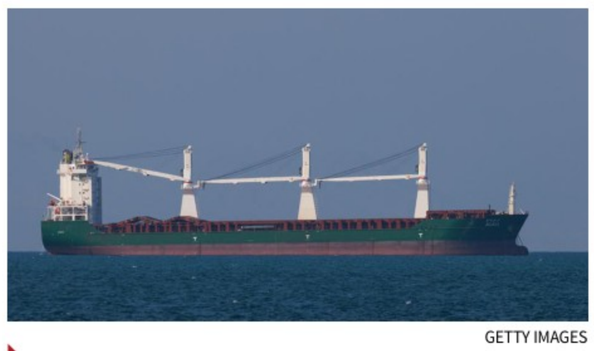
Greenland has lost 20% more ice than previously thought: study

AFP

Climate change has caused Greenland's ice sheet to lose 20% more ice than previously thought, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said. Previous studies said that about 5,000 gigatonnes of ice was lost in the past two decades. New study suggests over 1,000 gigatonnes was lost over the past four decades and not accounted for. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. re-lists Houthis as terrorists in response to Red Sea attacks



GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. government on Wednesday returned the Yemen-based Houthi rebels to a list of terrorist groups, the latest attempt by Washington to stem attacks on international shipping. The move is aimed at cutting off funding and weapons the Houthis have used to attack or hijack ships in vital Red Sea shipping lanes. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Protesters clash with Russian police after jailing of activist

AFP

Protesters in Russia's Bashkortostan region clashed with riot police after a court sentenced an eco-activist, Fail Alsynov, to four years in prison. Alsynov was accused of making a racist comment in a village council meeting against gold digging. He insists his words were mistranslated from the Bashkir language. AFP

DAVOS

'Israeli security contingent on pathway to Palestinian state'

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated the need for a "pathway to a Palestinian state" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, saying Israel would not "get genuine security absent that". At the summit, he also called Iran and its proxies "the biggest concern in terms of security" in the West Asian region. AFP

Why did Iran carry out strikes in Iraq, Syria and Pakistan?

The Islamic Republic seeks to send an assertive message to its conventional and non-state rivals that it would not hesitate to take military action if its security red lines are breached

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On December 15, 2023, a police station in Rask in Iran's Sistan Baluchestan province, roughly 60 km from the Pakistani border, came under attack. At least 11 Iranian security personnel were killed in the attack, which was claimed by the Jaish al-Adl (the Army of Justice).

On December 25, Brigadier General Sayyed Razi Mousavi, a senior adviser to Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was killed in an air strike in a southern suburb of Damascus. Tehran immediately blamed Israel for the strike and the latter neither confirmed nor denied its role.

On January 3, 2024, a memorial event for Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the Quds Force commander who was assassinated by the U.S. in January 2020, in Kerman in southeastern Iran was hit by twin blasts, killing at least 94 people. The Islamic State-Khorasan, the Afghanistan-based branch of the Islamic State terrorist group, claimed responsibility for the attack. All these attacks took place after the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas broke out on October 7, and Iran-backed militias in the region started attacking U.S. and Israeli troops as well as commercial vessels. As a regional crisis was spreading, Iran seemed vulnerable to growing security challenges. And the pressure on the Mullahs was building up.

War fallout: A building damaged by the missile attack launched by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Erbil. AFP

Iran's retaliation

On January 15-16, Iran claimed to have carried out retaliatory strikes against "the perpetrators" of all these attacks. First, it launched missiles and kamikaze drones into Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan. The IRGC claimed that its attacks destroyed "an espionage centre" of Mossad, Israel's external security agency.

Iran's claims were dismissed by the local authorities in Erbil, who said the strike hit the house of Peshraw Majeed Agha Dezaei, a Kurdish businessman. Dezaei, a property magnate, was instantly killed in the attack. IRGC-affiliated Tasnim news agency claimed in its Telegram channel that Dezaei was "a very important colleague of Mossad".

On the same day, Iran launched at least four ballistic missiles into Syria's Idlib, the northwestern region controlled by jihadists and rebels. Iran says the IS-K jihadists, who operate from Afghanistan's eastern provinces, get training in Idlib. The IRGC claimed that its attacks destroyed IS-training camps in Idlib.

On January 16, Iran carried out a surprise attack in Panjgur, a border town in Pakistan's Balochistan, targeting what it called the training camps of Jaish al-Adl, which had taken responsibility for the December 15 attack in Rask.

Jaish al-Adl, a Sunni Islamist group, seeks to separate Iran's eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, which is mostly Sunni, from the rest of the country, which is ruled by the Shia clergy. Iran had in the past complained about the presence of Jaish in Pakistani soil.

Iran came under great pressure after the Gaza war broke out, between Hamas, which gets support from Tehran, and Israel, its main rival in West Asia. Besides fighting a devastating war in Gaza, which has killed over 24,000 Palestinians, Israel has also carried out targeted strikes in Lebanon and Syria, killing Hezbollah and Hamas and Iranian commanders. Houthis, another Iran-backed Shia militia, are also being attack, by the U.S. and the U.K., after they targeted commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

Ring of fire

The crisis is spreading like wildfire across the region, with profound implications for Iran's security, both internal and external. By carrying out multiple strikes in three geographies, Iran seems to be flexing its military muscles. It wants to send a message, to both the Sunni militants and its conventional rivals that it would not hesitate to take military action against targets which it deems hostile if its security red lines are breached, even at the risk of a wider war.

Iran also seeks to assure its people that the government can act assertively to ensure security of the Islamic Republic and that the killing of its commanders would be avenged.

Iran may also be thinking that Israel is stuck in Gaza and the U.S. is preoccupied with the Houthis. This gives Tehran some space to make relatively bolder military moves. But what's to be seen is whether the attacks would help Iran improve its internal and external security or these would further worsen the security crisis in a region, which is already in a ring of fire.

Israel escalates Gaza strikes after medicine-for-aid deal

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israel stepped up strikes on the south of war-torn Gaza on Wednesday, ahead of the expected delivery of medicines for hostages in exchange for humanitarian aid under a newly brokered deal. The deal was brokered by Qatar and France

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the deal, under which 45 hostages are expected to receive medication.

Meanwhile, airstrikes and artillery fire targeted Khan Younis throughout the night in the southern Gaza Strip's biggest city.

"It was the most difficult and intense night in Khan Younis since the start of the war," said Gaza's Hamas government, whose Health Ministry reported 81 deaths across the Palestinian territory during the past 24 hours.

Renewed vigour: An Israeli soldier sits inside a military vehicle along the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel. AFP

Fighting has ravaged Gaza since Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attacks on Israel that resulted in the death of about 1,140 people.

At least 24,448 Palestinians, about 70% of them women, young children and adolescents, have been killed in Israeli bombardments and ground assaults.

West Bank strike

Israeli strikes killed nine persons in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday as violence in the territory sees no let-up.

China's population falls for a 2nd straight year

Associated Press
BEIJING

China's population fell by 2 million people in 2023 in its second straight annual decrease, as births dropped for the seventh straight year and deaths jumped following the end of COVID-19 restrictions.

The total population stood at 1.4 billion. China, long the most populated country in the world, dropped into second place behind India, according to UN estimates.

The falling births reflect a decline in the fertility rate that is a long-term economic and societal challenge for China. Experts expect the population decline to continue for decades, even if the fertility rate rebounds.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
Office of the Director, No. 49, Khanija Bhavan, South Block, Race Course Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. Phone : 080-22384134/35
No.: DMG/TS/SSPP/2023-24 Date:17.01.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Bids are invited in Two Cover System from eligible registered companies / firm / agencies for Printing and Supplying of Special Security Permit Papers (SSPP) for the Department of Mines & Geology.
Tender document can be downloaded from the e-procurement website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Last date for submission of bids is **01.02.2024, 17.30 Hrs.**
Bids shall be submitted online through e-procurement platform only.
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
Department of Mines & Geology, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/JA/3076/2023-24

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).
No./KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/2023-24/ 3015 Date: 11.01.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp-protal only)
Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned and System for from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.
On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.
The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 1.1, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.
The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.
The approximate estimated cost of work is Rs. 452.35Lakhs 471.67 Lakhs 354.16 Lakhs 467.06 Lakhs 494.67 Lakhs 499.81 Lakhs 490.43 Lakhs 499.93 Lakhs 350.15 Lakhs 389.48 Lakhs.
1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents: From 18..01.2024@ 10.30 AM to 25.01.2024. upto 4.00 PM, 2:Last date & time for tender queries:24.01.2024 upto 4.00 PM, 3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE HBC Division Athani:23.01.2024 upto 11.00 AM, 4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 18..01.2024@ 10.30 AM to 25.01.2024. upto 4.00 PM, 5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani:30.01.2024 @ 11.00 AM, 6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani:01.02.2024 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Technical Bid, 7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai:31.01.2024 @ 11.00 AM.
Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867
Sd/-S.G.Srinath, Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-946/KSMCA/2023-24

जवाहरलाल नेहरू उन्नत वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान केंद्र
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research
Advertisement No: JNC/AO/No.01/2024 January 18, 2024
Notification
The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) is a premier research institution under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. An institution Deemed-to-be-University, it is known for interdisciplinary research, and is equipped with state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities and provides excellent support to its faculty members in achieving ambitious goals in their academic activities and research. JNCASR invites applications from Indian nationals including OCI card holders for the position of Assistant Professor in the frontier areas of science and engineering. For more details, refer to Centre's website: https://www.jncasr.ac.in/openings/faculty-position
Sd/- Administrative Officer
JNCASR

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 052.
No.CE&CGM(Tech)/BSWML/TEND/06/2023-24 Date:16.01.2024
CORRIGENDUM
The Tendern Notification published in this newspaper on 17.01.2024, vide **Ref No.: No.CE&CGM(Tech)/BSWML/TEND/06/2023-24 Date:16.01.2024. Instead of Sl no 1 as Grants sanctioned under 15th finance may be read as Grants approved under SBM 2.0 (BBMP, State Govt and central Govt) along with Legacy waste NGT penalty amount.** Other terms and conditions remains same.
Sd/- Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager(Tech)
DIPR/CP/3072/2023-24

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur,
No.14/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM/AE-1&2&3/3170/2023-24
Date: 11.01.2024
Short-term Tender Notification
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from Class-IV & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of Turuvekere, Tumkur, Gubbi, Sira, Madhugiri, and Koratagere Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.13.16 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.32,910/- and Maximum Tender Amount Rs.394.67 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.5,92,100/-)
Particulars & Details: 1. Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal **30.01.2024** Upto 17.00 Hours. 2. Pre Bid Meeting (KW- 3 Works) : Date: **23.01.2024** at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. 3. Technical Opening of Bids: **31.01.2024** at 17.30 PM onwards. 4. Financial Opening of Bids **03.02.2024** at 11.00 A M onwards. For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)
Sd/- Executve Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/450/KSMCA/2023-24

Malaysian filmmakers 'hurt religious feelings'

Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR

The director and producer of a banned Malaysian film that explores the afterlife were charged on January 17 with offending the religious feelings of others.

Mohamad Khairianwar Jailani, the director and co-scriptwriter of *Mentega Terbang* and producer Tan Meng Kheng pleaded not guilty.

The film, which debuted at a regional film festival in 2021, revolves around a young Muslim girl who explores other religions to figure out where her ailing mother would go when she dies. Scenes that angered Muslims included ones showing the girl desiring to eat pork, and pretending to drink holy water, and her father supporting her wish to leave Islam.

Sri Lanka top court quashes presidential pardon given to ex-MP convicted for murder

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The top court rules that Gotabaya Rajapaksa's decision was 'arbitrary and irrational'

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka on Wednesday revoked the presidential pardon granted to a former parliamentarian convicted for murdering a political rival.

Ruling on the case challenging former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's 2021 pardon of ex-MP Duminda Silva, the country's top court deemed the decision "arbitrary and irrational", and directed prison authorities to implement the sentence.

The Supreme Courts verdict pertains to the conviction of Mr. Silva and four others for the murder of Bharatha Laxman Premachandra – Mr. Silva's rival within the party, helmed by Mahinda Rajapaksa – in October 2011.

The intra-party, fatal shootout coincided with the local government elections that year. In 2016, a High Court Trial-at-Bar sentenced Mr. Silva and four others to death. However, Sri Lanka has maintained a moratorium on capital punishment since 1976, and their sentences were effectively commuted to life.

President's pardon

In June 2021, former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa pardoned his ally Mr. Silva – among 94 others – triggering strong criticism from the political opposition and rights groups. Relatives of the victim challenged the decision at the Supreme Court, whose three-member Bench on Wednesday unanimously quashed Mr. Gotabaya's move.

The development brings into focus another controversial presidential pardon. Barely four months after being elected President in November 2019, Mr. Gotabaya pardoned and released Army man Sunil Ratnayake convicted for killing eight Tamil civilians, including a five-year-old and two teenagers, during the civil war. Many, including family members of victims, have challenged the decision and the Supreme Court is expected to hear the case later this year.

INBRIEF

Tata Passenger introduces Punch.ev at ₹10.99 lakh

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. (TPEM), a subsidiary of Tata Motors, has introduced Punch.ev at a starting ex-showroom price of ₹10.99 lakh. The top-most model is priced at ₹15.49 lakh (ex-showroom). Punch.ev will be available at Tata Motors showrooms authorised for EV sales and Tata.ev stores across India. The vehicle comes with two battery pack options: 25 kWh which offers an MIDC range of 315 km, and 35 kWh which offers an MIDC range of 421 km.

NBFC Shriram Finance raises $750 million via social bonds

Shriram Finance Ltd., a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), said it had priced a $750 million Fixed Rate Senior Secured 144A/Reg S Bond for a 3.25 year tenor. "Following a strong book-build supported by high quality long only marquee investors, the company was able to achieve highest tightening in the pricing by 37.5 bps. This also marks the tightest credit spreads over three-year U.S. Treasuries in our USD bonds," the company said in a statement.

Nova Agritech prices IPO at ₹39-₹41, issue to open Jan. 22

Agri-input manufacturer Nova Agritech Ltd. has set its initial public offering (IPO) price band at ₹39-₹41 per equity share of face value ₹2 each. The IPO will open for subscription on January 22 and close on January 24. The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity aggregating to ₹112 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 77,58,620 equity shares by the selling shareholder Nutalapati Venkatasubbarao. The total issue size is estimated at ₹143.81 crore at the upper band.

Q3 growth may slip below 6%: ICRA

Real GDP growth may have slowed down significantly lower than the RBI's forecast of 6.5% for the third quarter, says the rating agency; it cites a sequential softening in high-frequency indicators and a slump in Centre's capex for the slowdown

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Real GDP growth may have slowed to under 6% in the October to December 2023 quarter from 7.6% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2023-24, rating agency ICRA said on Wednesday, citing a sequential softening in a majority of high-frequency indicators.

The firm's economists also referred to the slump in the Centre's capital expenditure in Q3, with October and November seeing an 8.8% dip year-on-year, and their expectations of "little-to-no" growth in the Gross Value Added (GVA) by the Agriculture sector, in their rationale for the growth downtick in the last quarter. The sharp fall in kharif crop output and weak progress of rabi sowing for some crops would hurt the farm sector GVA.

"ICRA remains apprehensive of the sustenance in the growth momentum in Q3. We project the GDP growth to slow down to below 6% in Q3 FY2024 from 7.6% in Q2, substantially lower than the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) forecast of 6.5% for that quarter," they wrote in a report on business activity, which pointed to December's economic activity growing at a six-month low pace of 8.1%.

In December, the Reserve Bank of India's MPC had scaled up its GDP growth forecast for the year to 7%, from 6.5%, with Q3 projected to grow 6.5%, followed by a 6% expansion in Q4. In its first advance estimates of national income released earlier this month, the National Statistical Office has projected GDP to grow 7.3% this year, higher than the 7.2% recorded in 2022-23.

Year-on-year growth moderated for the second month in a row in December, which ICRA said could be attributed to easing of momentum after the festive period, and tapering demand for petrol and electricity with the onset of winter in North India, along with base effects.

Though ICRA's Business Activity Monitor index grew at a three-quarter high of 10.3% in Q3, the firm said this was not broad-based, with a few indicators such as two-wheeler sales and port cargo traffic driving the uptick. As many as nine of 15 non-financial indicators reported a growth deceleration from Q2 levels, including commercial vehicles' production and finished steel consumption.

Losing steam

India's Q3 growth may suffer with 'little-to-no' growth in the agriculture sector due to a sharp fall in kharif crop output

- ICRA economists also highlight a significant drop in Centre's capex in Q3, particularly in Oct. and Nov.
- The rating firm attributes Dec. slowdown to end of festive period and tapering demand for energy during winter

- In December, the RBI had scaled up its GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to 7%, from 6.5%

HDFC Bank drags Sensex to its steepest fall in 19 months

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The euphoria in the stock markets turned to anxiety on Wednesday with the S&P BSE Sensex slumping 2.23%, its worst single-day percentage loss since June 2022, after India's largest private lender HDFC Bank tumbled more than 8% in the wake of overnight third-quarter results that triggered investor concerns about the bank's ability to sustain margins.

Markets were also rattled by a broader global equity selloff, fuelled by weaker-than-anticipated Chinese Q4 GDP data as well as fading expectations of early interest rate cuts by central banks worldwide including the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Banking stocks buckle

The Sensex tanked 1,628 points to 71,500.76. Losses were led by HDFC Bank (8.46%), Tata Steel (4.08%), Kotak Bank (3.66%), Axis Bank (3.18%) and ICICI Bank (2.85%). The IT pack comprising HCL Tech, TCS, Infosys and Tech Mahindra, however, ended unscathed, posting gains ranging from 0.5% to 1.3%.

The NSE Nifty-50 index slid 2.09% to 21,571.95.

"Indian equity indices declined sharply amid a selloff as heavyweight banks slumped," said Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox. "Concerns escalated among investors due to heightened tensions in the Middle East and fading expectations of a rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve," he added.

Markets might be running ahead: Das

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

RBI Governor projects India's GDP to grow by 7% in FY25, with inflation averaging 4.5%

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday flagged concerns that ebullient financial markets may possibly "be running ahead of themselves" amid "somewhat reassuring" global economic data, even as he forecast at a speech in Davos that India's GDP would grow 7% in FY25, with inflation averaging 4.5%.

"Recent information on global macroeconomic front has been somewhat reassuring with inflation gradually descending closer to the target even as growth has held up better than expected in almost every country. The odds of a soft landing have increased and this has enthused the financial markets... markets have scaled new highs, raising concerns that they might be running ahead of themselves," Mr. Das said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,501	-2.23
US Dollar	83.14	-0.02
Gold	63,050	-0.63
Brent oil	77.58	-0.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2971.05	-85.45
Adani Ports	1166.85	-26.50
Apollo Hosp	5925.90	21.35
Asian Paints	3242.30	-54.60
Axis Bank	1082.30	-36.80
Bajaj Auto	7165.95	-128.00
Bajaj Finserv	1586.15	-37.35
Bajaj Finance	7358.85	-97.80
Bharti Airtel	1085.25	-10.65
BPCL	471.65	-1.20
Britannia Ind	5061.70	-68.90
Cipla	1294.00	-8.35
Coal India	379.65	-2.25
Divis Lab	3728.80	-85.70
Dr Reddys Lab	5649.95	-108.20
Eicher Motors	3751.10	-41.20
Grasim Ind	2067.85	-47.35
HCL Tech	1575.90	20.45
HDFC Bank	1537.50	-141.65
HDFC Life	606.60	-4.65
Hero MotoCorp	4370.85	-13.80
Hindalco	560.25	-19.30
Hind Unilever	2562.90	-6.20
ICICI Bank	981.75	-27.30
IndusInd Bank	1643.90	-23.15
Infosys	1640.20	8.65
ITC	466.60	-5.70
JSW Steel	812.65	-19.65
Kotak Bank	1779.65	-68.35
L&T	3570.95	-2.55
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6275.60	39.70
M&M	1597.70	-22.65
Maruti Suzuki	10051.70	-131.85
NestleIndia	2543.10	1.05
NTPC	309.30	-2.20
ONGC	232.05	-3.05
PowerGrid Corp	239.20	0.15
Reliance Ind	2723.15	-26.10
SBI Life	1421.15	12.35
State Bank	626.00	-10.90
Sun Pharma	1299.00	-14.45
TataConsumerProduct	1138.60	-5.10
Tata Motors	805.55	-13.30
Tata Steel	131.65	-5.60
TCS	3884.60	23.30
Tech Mahindra	1326.75	6.35
Titan	3830.05	9.75
UltraTech Cement	9854.65	-114.95
UPL	551.00	-13.50
Wipro	482.40	-2.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.94	83.26
Euro	90.20	90.55
British Pound	105.21	105.62
Japanese Yen (100)	56.18	56.39
Chinese Yuan	11.53	11.58
Swiss Franc	96.30	96.68
Singapore Dollar	61.73	61.98
Canadian Dollar	61.36	61.60
Malaysian Ringitt	17.57	17.66
Australian Dollar	54.40	54.61

Source:Indian Bank

India's Oct. 1 to Jan. 15 sugar output drops 7% y-o-y

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian mills produced 14.87 million metric tons of sugar between Oct. 1 and Jan. 15, a 7% fall from the previous year, because of lower output in key producing states Maharashtra and Karnataka, a leading industry body said on Wednesday.

Maharashtra's sugar production fell to 5.1 million tons from 6.09 million tons, while Karnataka's dropped 12.7% to 3.1 million tons, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories said. Production in Uttar Pradesh meanwhile rose 14.8% to 4.61 million tons.

'Netradyne's AI to aid safety at Greenline'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Netradyne Technology, a provider of AI technology for fleet and driver safety, has announced its collaboration with Essar Group's GreenLine Mobility Solutions, which provides LNG-powered heavy trucking logistics solutions in India.

Netradyne will leverage its flagship product, Driver•i – a vision-based technology to ensure real-time assessment of driving behavior and provide comprehensive insights for fleet managers.

Its data-driven approach identifies areas of improvement, facilitating automated and targeted training programs to elevate overall safety measures. By 2024 end, GreenLine will have 1,000 trucks fitted with devices which will ensure driver safety.

Anand Mimani, CEO, GreenLine Mobility said, "This collaboration epitomises our collective commitment to pioneering advanced safety standards. By integrating Netradyne's Driver•i, our goal is to enhance driver safety, fostering a secure environment for our dedicated drivers."

Sun to market Bayer's kidney disease drug in India

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries will market Bayer's patented drug Finerenone in India under the brand name Lyvelsa.

Finerenone is indicated to reduce the risk of sustained eGFR decline, end-stage kidney disease, cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction and hospitalisation for heart failure in adult patients with chronic kidney disease associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus, the companies said. Finerenone was approved by the U.S. FDA in July 2021 and by health authorities in India in April 2022.

Tata Motors mulls FY25 EV sales boost

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Shailesh Chandra

Lack of charging infrastructure on highways and slower adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by consumers in some cities have dampened Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.'s (TPEM) ambitious plan of selling more than one lakh electric passenger cars this fiscal, said a top official.

"In FY23, we sold over 50,000 e-PVs. We would end this year between 73,000-80,000 units," said Shailesh Chandra, MD of Tata Motors Ltd. and TPEM during an interaction.

"Our aspiration was to sell one lakh EVs. A lot of action had been initiated by us to achieve that number. But many things were out of our control," he said.

Mr. Chandra said product expansion was slow in some cities as consumers were not moving at the expected pace. Besides, failed talks with fleet operators and withdrawal of incentives by some States also impacted sales.

"But, we will achieve the numbers during FY25," Mr. Chandra added.

Tech lay-offs likely to continue in 2024

Reuters
BENGALURU

Big Tech's "Year of Efficiency" may be over but recent layoffs at Google and Amazon have signaled the firms will keep cutting jobs in 2024 as they make big investments in generative AI.

Analysts and industry experts believe the layoffs would be smaller and more targeted this year, with firms that are racing to catch up in the AI race more likely to make such moves to offset the billions of dollars they are spending on the technology.

Overall, tech firms have let go more than 7,500 employees so far in January, according to tracking website Layoffs.fyi.

"No company wants to get left behind by the AI revolution," D.A. Davidson & Co analyst Gil Luria said. "And they are all making sure they have these capabilities and are prioritizing them, even when it is at the expense of other initiatives," he added.

Both leading tech companies Google and Amazon are aggressively investing in their AI efforts.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಲೋ.ಇ./ಬಾ.ವಿ./ಪಿ.ಬಿ./ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ/2023–24/3291 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–01–2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999 – 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅಕ್ಟ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 1, 2, 3, 4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : 7128, 7525.
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ : 7526, 7618.
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ : 7533.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 175.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 17.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	22–01–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಆ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	24–01–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	25–01–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಡ) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	29–01–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	30–01–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/309/ಮನೆಪಾಲ್/2023–24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	West - 1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/3073/2023-24 Date: 11.01.2024 (CALL-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 5,70,554/- Rs. 7,200/-	25.01.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	29.01.2024 after 4:30 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EE(W)-1/PB/3094/2023-24 Date: 12.01.2024 (CALL-2)	Rs. 18,50,108/- Rs. 46,300/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(W)-1/PB/3096/2023-24 Date: 12.01.2024 (CALL-2)	Rs. 21,77,094/- Rs. 54,500/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer(West-1).	
4	West - 2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3753/2023-24 Date: 17.01.2024 (CALL-2)	Rs. 33,65,734/- Rs.67,400/-	25.01.2024 upto 3:00 p.m.	29.01.2024 after 3:00 p.m.
				Sd/- Executive Engineer(West-2).	

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

5	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/2649/2023-24 Date: 11.01.2024 (CALL-2)	Rs. 23,15,017/- Rs. 54,640/-	25.01.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.	29.01.2024 after 5:01 p.m.
				Sd/- Executive Engineer(Central).	

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3079/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client **Sri. SURAJ PRASAD, S/o. M.P. Prasad,** residing at # 305, "Anugraha", Near SSR College, LG Lake, Dew SKMR, 4th Cross, Billeshivalle, Bengaluru-560077, has lost/misplaced the original ABSOLUTE SALE DEED pertaining to his APARTMENT NO. 2-D, Second Floor, CLASSIC, New Municipal No. 39/11, PID No. 55-91-39/11, property bearing Corporation No. 39, 22nd Main, Revenue Layout, Chikkakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-560070, now BBMP Limits 182-Padmanabhanagar ward. Super built up area of 1481 Sq.ft., with one car parking space No. 18, UDS 351 Sq.ft. The same having been Regd. on 28-02-2008 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Banashankari, Bengaluru, **vide Doc. No. BSK-1-06693-2007-08, in Book No. 1, C.D. No. BSKD18, executed by Smt. Shakuntala, Ms. J. Shubha, Ms. J. Parvathi, Sri. J. Manjunath,** all represented by their **GPA Holder Smt. L.V. Jamuna (First Vendors) and M/S. LA ROYALE HOMES, represented by its Managing Partner Smt. L.V. Jamuna (Second Vendors) in favour of Smt. A.R. PUSHPAVATHI.** In this connection a Police complaint has been lodged and filed a Lost Report No. 0878633/2024, dated 06-01-2024, in this regard. Finders may please contact/ return to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
RAGHU M. (Advocate)
No. 227, 7th Cross,
Anubhavanagar,
Nagarabhavi Main Road,
Bengaluru-560072.
(M) 9538980188.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that our client **Mrs. MANJULA BHASKARAN SALOMON,** D/o Late M.P.Bhaskaran, residing at: No. 126, 2nd Cross, HAL III Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560075, has lost the original Sale Deed dated 29-12-1977, registered as Document No. 26120/1977-78 of Book-1, Volume-1958, Pages 87 to 88, dated 29-12-1977, in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, in respect to the below mentioned Schedule Property and same is not traceable and it is irretrievably misplaced inspite of her best efforts and she has lodged a E- lost Complaint before the Halasur Police Station, Bangalore City Police, Bangalore on 16-01-2023 vide Lost Report No. 0890423/2024. If anyone finds the above mentioned document, they are hereby requested to deliver the same to undersigned and if any person were to deal with the said Original title document in respect to the below mentioned Schedule Property other than our client, such transactions will not bind on her or the below mentioned Schedule Property and they will be doing so at their own risk and cost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **residential Property bearing No. 126, 2nd Cross, HAL III Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560075 measuring East to West 9.14 Meters or 30 Feet** and **North to South 13.41 Meters or 44 Feet totally measuring 1320 Sq. Ft,** having its BBMP PID No: 74-8-126 together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

North By : Site No. 125, **South By :** Site No. 127
East By : Site No. 143, **West By :** Road

Sd/-
A.YOGASREE & SIDDAPPAJI. S
ADVOCATES,
No. 706, 'B' wing, 7th Floor, Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore-560001,
Mobile Nos: 7259900683 & 9980413767
Place: Bangalore Dated: 17-01-2024

LEADING THE PACK

Rohit Sharma breaks the record for most centuries in T20Is

K. MURALI KUMAR

Rohit Sharma's highest T20I score (121 not out) in the third T20 International against Afghanistan in Bengaluru was also his fifth century in the shortest format. The India skipper became the first batter ever to achieve the feat, breaking the tie with Glenn Maxwell and Suryakumar Yadav.

DREAM START

Debutant Joseph shines with bat and ball for the West Indies

AFP

Debutant Shamar Joseph gave West Indies hope by taking two wickets, including one off his very first ball, in Australia's reply to the visitors' 188 on the first day of the first Test in Adelaide.
The scores: WI 188 in 62.1 overs (McKenzie 50, Joseph 36, Cummins 4/41, Hazlewood 4/44) vs Australia 59/2 in 21 overs. **Toss:** Australia.

FLYING FINN

NZ rides on Allen's record-breaking century to seal series victory

AFP

New Zealand sealed the T20I series against Pakistan with two games to spare on the back of a record 137 off 62 balls by opener Finn Allen in Dunedin on Wednesday.
The scores: New Zealand 224/7 in 20 overs (Allen 137, Seifert 31) bt Pakistan 179/7 in 20 overs (Babar 58, Nawaz 28). **Toss**: Pakistan.

STEPPING UP

Giants cut Dabang down to size, end their 7-match unbeaten run

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gujarat Giants snapped Dabang Delhi KC's seven-match unbeaten run to score a 31-26 victory in a PKL match in Jaipur on Wednesday. Deepak Singh finished with a High five while Dabang's Ashu Malik claimed another Super 10. Jaipur Pink Panthers beat Haryana Steelers 37-27 to extend its unbeaten streak to 10 matches.

Rohit's India pips Afghanistan at the post in a dramatic twin Super Over shoot-out

The skipper's century propels the Men in Blue to 212 before the spirited visitors, led by Naib, tie the match; Bishnoi delivers in the second tie-breaker, a first in T20Is

AFGHANISTAN IN IND

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Hitmen: India was staring down the barrel at 22 for four when Rohit let loose while Bishnoi sealed the deal with two wickets in three balls. K. MURALI KUMAR

There aren't many days when Rohit Sharma's white-ball brilliance is eclipsed. It nearly happened at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday when Afghanistan stunningly matched India's mammoth 212-run total, dragged the contest into not one but two Super Overs – a first in T20Is – before falling agonisingly short.

Afghanistan made 16 for one in the first shoot-out, only for India to equal it, helped by two sixes from Rohit. In the second tie-breaker, India scored 11 for two but Afghanistan was shot out for one run, with Ravi Bishnoi claiming both wickets to help sweep the series 3-0.

In a match that ebbed and flowed like an ocean wave on a full moon day, Rohit (121 n.o., 69b, 11x4, 8x6) and Rinku Singh (69 n.o., 39b, 2x4, 6x6) rescued their side from a precarious 22 for four with a majestic 190-run partnership.

However, Afghanistan showed its collective ethos as openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz (50, 32b, 3x4, 4x6) and Ibrahim Zadran (50, 41b, 4x4, 1x6) put on 93 from 11 overs, before two scarily good cameos from Gulbadin Naib (55 n.o., 23b, 4x4, 4x6) and Mohammad Nabi (34, 16b, 2x4, 3x6) almost flattened the host.

Even when 36 was needed off the last two overs, India seemed ahead, only for Naib to hit 23 runs off Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar to even the tie and give the fans more than their money's worth. Virat Kohli, who was out for a first-ball duck, showed his worth by turning a potential six into a single with a stellar leap at long-on in the 17th over.

Earlier, after deciding to bat, India was off to a disastrous start. Between a cut to the boundary from Rohit off the 13th ball of the innings to another from the captain off the 31st, the crowd was stunned into silence. On a sluggish pitch, Kohli, Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal all fell trying to execute cross-batted shots as Fareed Ahmed bowled a fine first spell (3-0-10-3). Shivam Dube was caught acrobatically by wicket-keeper Gurbaz.

Little did Afghanistan know that that would be the last of their happy moments. At one point, Rohit was 13 off 22 deliveries, but he took off in the middle overs, recalibrating his game splendidly to the pace of the wicket.

There were eight sumptuous maximums, including a breathtaking reverse-swept six off tweaker Sharafuddin Ashraf. Rohit's 64-ball century – a record-breaking fifth in T20Is – came in the 19th over when he hit Azmatullah Omarzai for a six over mid-wicket, a four past short-fine and for another boundary over point.

While all eyes were fixated on Rohit, Rinku proved to be the ghost in the ring, the kind of moving target Afghanistan found incredibly difficult to pin down. The result was a splendid T20 innings, that saw the southpaw even strike at a rate marginally higher than his skipper (176.92 to Rohit's 175.36).

Rinku smashed half-a-dozen sixes, including three over mid-wicket off the last three balls of the innings, as Afghanistan bled 103 from the last five overs. The weight of the runs would have crushed most teams, but not the spirited Afghans.

Incredible finish

Super Over 1: Afghanistan 16/1 tied with India 16/1.
Super Over 2: India 11/2 (all out) in 0.5 overs bt Afghanistan 1/2 in 0.3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Nabi b Fareed 4 *(6b)*, Rohit Sharma (not out) 121 *(69b, 11x4, 8x6)*, Virat Kohli c Ibrahim b Fareed 0 *(1b)*, Shivam Dube c Gurbaz b Omarzai 1 *(6b)*, Sanju Samson c Nabi b Fareed 0 *(1b)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 69 *(39b, 2x4, 6x6)*; Extras (lb-9, w-6, nb-2): 17; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Jaiswal, 2.3 overs), 2-18 (Kohli, 2.4), 3-21 (Dube, 3.6), 4-22 (Samson, 4.3)

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Fareed 4-0-20-3, Omarzai 4-0-33-1, Qais 4-0-28-0, Saleem 3-0-43-0, Ashraf 2-0-25-0, Janat 3-0-54-0.

AFGHANISTAN

Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Washington b Kuldeep 50 *(32b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Ibrahim Zadran st. Samson b Washington 50 *(41b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Gulbadin Naib (not out) 55 *(23b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Bishnoi b Washington 0 *(1b)*, Mohammad Nabi c Avesh b Washington 34 *(16b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Karim Janat run out 2 *(2b)*, Najibullah Zadran c Kohli b Avesh 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Sharafuddin Ashraf (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, w-10): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-93 (Gurbaz, 10.6), 2-107 (Ibrahim, 12.3), 3-107 (Omarzai, 12.4), 4-163 (Nabi, 16.2), 5-167 (Janat, 17.1), 6-182 (Najibullah, 18.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Mukesh 4-0-44-0, Avesh 4-0-55-1, Bishnoi 4-0-38-0, Washington 3-0-18-3, Dube 2-0-25-0, Kuldeep 3-0-31-1.

Toss: India. **Match tied.**

Praggnanandhaa... double delight.
FILE PHOTO: DEBASISH BHADURI

Pragg stuns Liren, replaces Anand as India No. 1

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa stunned World champion Ding Liren in the fourth round of Tata Steel Masters chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee and became the top-rated Indian in the live world rankings on Tuesday.

The Chennai youngster's first victory over the Chinese, ranked fourth in the world, came in 62 moves with the black pieces.

With 5.3 rating points from four rounds, Praggnanandhaa took his live rating tally to 2748.3 and went past Viswanathan Anand's 2748.0.

Praggnanandhaa now occupies a career-high 11th spot, one ahead of Anand.

The day also saw D. Gukesh suffer his second defeat while Vidit Gujrathi held local Dutch Jorden van Foreest.

In the Challengers' section, D. Harika drew but Leon Mendonca and Divya Deshmukh lost.

Satwik-Chirag pair through

INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Turning it around: Satwik and Chirag survived a blip in the second game to prevail over Chih-Lee and Lee. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The proceedings in the India Open badminton are following a predictable script. Barring second seeds Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, none of the home-grown talent on view survived the second day of the competition here.

The Chirag-Satwik duo, too, dealt with some anxious moments in the early stages of the decider before regaining control for a 21-15, 19-21, 21-16 triumph over Chinese Taipei's Fang Chih-Lee and Fang-Jen Lee. This was a second win for the Indians over their rivals to go with the triumph in the 2023 Swiss Open.

However, there was disappointment for Indians in all other matches. Former World No. 1 K. Srikanth, now ranked 25th, raised visions of an encouraging result but bowed to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu for the third straight time in four encounters. During the 47-minute match that Lee Cheuk Yiu won 24-22, 21-13, Srikanth saved three game points in the opener, squandered a game-point before his rival converted his fifth game-point.

In the second, Srikanth bridged a 3-12 deficit to 13-17 but couldn't do better.

The home challenge in women's singles and doubles ended. World No. 20 Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto battled hard to test World No. 10 Thai pair Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai for 63 minutes but the result appeared a foregone conclusion much before the final point. The Thai pair won 21-5, 18-21, 21-11.

Aakarshi Kashyap, the only Indian in the women's draw, ran into second-seeded China's Chen Yufie who took just 32 minutes for a 21-10, 21-9 win.

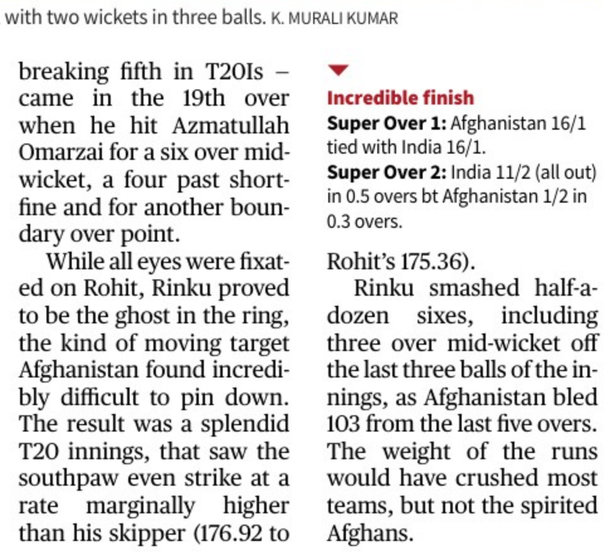
Other results (first round, involving Indians): Men: Takuma Obayashi (Jpn) bt Sathish Kumar Karunakaran 22-20, 21-16; **Doubles:** Kenya Mitsuhashi & Hiroki Okamura (Jpn) bt Krishna Prasad & Sai Pratheek 21-14, 21-11.

Women: Doubles: Kim So Yeong & Kong Hee Yong (Kor) bt Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam 21-12, 21-3.

Tsitsipas comes through 'insane' battle; Djokovic forced to dig deep; Andreeva stuns idol Jabeur

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE



Powering through: THE 16-year-old Andreeva needed less than an hour to beat three-time Major finalist Jabeur. AFP

Stefanos Tsitsipas said the adrenaline rush he got in a titanic struggle to battle past home hope Jordan Thompson at the Australian Open on Wednesday was "insane".

Last year's beaten finalist struggled to get going in front of a rowdy crowd on Margaret Court Arena before finally getting over the line 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-2, 7-6(4) after a gruelling three hours and 36 minutes.

It set him up with a clash for a place in the fourth round with France's Luca Van Assche.

Novak Djokovic survived a huge scare to reach the third round, beating home favourite Alexei Popyrin to stay on track for a historic 25th Grand Slam title.

The World No. 1 showed his trademark mental strength to face down his inspired opponent, prevailing 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-3 in more than three hours.

The Serbian, who let out a huge roar after sealing victory over Popyrin, said the Australian was the better player for a set and a half but that momentum shifted in the third-set tie-break.

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff avoided the early upsets to advance along with 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva.

Three-time Major finalist Ons Jabeur lost 6-0, 6-2 in 54 minutes to Andreeva in Wednesday's opening match on Rod Laver Arena and then 2018 champion Caroline Wozniacki also lost to a young Russian on the No. 3 show court.

Jabeur, the runner-up at Wimbledon in each of the past two years, made 24 unforced errors against Andreeva.

"I was really nervous before the match because I'm really inspired by Ons and the way she plays," said Andreeva, who lost in the final of the junior event here last year.

"Before I started on the WTA Tour, I always watched her matches and was always so inspired. Now I had the chance to play against her."

SECOND ROUND RESULTS

Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Popyrin (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-3; 30-Etcheverry (Arg) bt Monfils (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 20-Mannarino (Fra) bt Munar (Esp) 6-3, 6-3, 1-6, 2-6, 6-3; 16-Shelton (USA) bt O'Connell (Aus) 6-4, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(5); 12-Fritz (USA) bt Gaston (Fra) 6-0, 6-3, 6-1; Marozsan (Hun) bt 22-Cerundolo (Arg) 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-2; van Assche (Fra) bt 25-Musetti (Ita) 6-3, 3-6, 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-0; 7-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Thompson (Aus) 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-2, 7-6(4); 4-Sinner (Ita) bt de Jong (Ned) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; 26-Baez (Arg) bt Galan (Col) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; Machac (Cze) bt 17-Tiafoe (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(5); 15-Khachanov (Rus) bt Kovacevic (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 10-de Minaur (Aus) bt Arnaldi (Ita) 6-3, 6-0, 6-3; Cobolli (Ita) bt Kotov (Rus) 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; 29-Korda (USA) bt Halys (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 5-Rublev (Rus) bt Eubanks (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: Avanesyan (Rus) bt 8-Sakkari (Gre) 6-4, 6-4; Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 25-Mertens (Bel) 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(6); Timofeeva (Rus) bt Wozniacki (Den) 1-6, 6-4, 6-1; 10-Maia (Bra) bt Korneeva (Rus) 6-1, 6-2; Frech (Pol) bt 16-Garcia (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(2); Zakharova (Rus) bt Juvan (Slo) 6-1, 6-1; Parks (USA) bt 32-Fernandez (Can) 7-5, 6-4; 4-Gauff (USA) bt Dolehide (USA) 7-6(2), 6-2; Andreeva (Rus) bt 6-Jabeur (Tun) 6-0, 6-2; Parry (Fra) bt Rakhimova (Rus) 7-5, 6-2; Hunter (AUS) bt Siegemund (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; 9-Krejcíková (Cze) bt Korpatsch (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; Anisimova (USA) bt Podoroska (Arg) 6-2, 6-3; Badosa (Esp) bt Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) 6-2, 6-3; 28-Tsurenko (Ukr) bt Masarova (Esp) 6-3, 6-4; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Fruhvirtová (Cze) 6-3, 6-2.

Fallen seeds

Men: 17-Tiafoe, 22-Cerundolo, 25-Musetti
Women: 6-Jabeur, 8-Sakkari, 16-Garcia, 25-Mertens, 32-Fernandez

INBRIEF

Jennings on song as Lions batters flay India-A attack

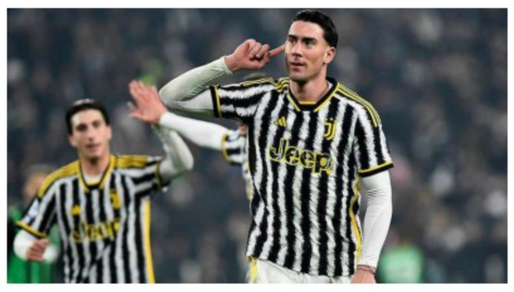
The India-A bowlers got a taste of the Bazball approach as England Lions, led by opener Keaton Jennings, pulverised an attack full of seasoned domestic operators to score 382 for three in 82 overs on the opening day of the four-day 'Test' in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Jennings smashed 154 off 188 deliveries with 20 boundaries and two sixes while adding 157 for the opening stand with Alex Lees (73 of 91 balls) and another 127 with skipper Josh Bohanon (93 batting off 140 balls).

The scores: England Lions 382/3 in 82 overs (Keaton Jennings 154, Josh Bohanan 93 batting, Alex Lees 73, Manav Suthar 3/85) vs India-A.

Ankita bounces back to make the last 16

Ankita Raina staged a comeback to oust Viktoria Morvayova in the round-of-32 of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open tennis tournament at KSLTA Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Ankita, down a set and trailing 1-5 in the second, pulled off a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 win over her Slovakian rival. Fellow Indians Rutuja Bhosale, *in pic.*, and Vaidehi Chaudhary also entered the last 16 stage. While Rutuja fought back after losing the first set 0-6 against Eri Shimizu of Japan before winning the next two sets 7-5, 7-5, Vaidehi brushed aside the challenge of Sapfo Sakellaridi of Greece 6-4, 6-2.

The results: Lena Papadakis (Ger) bt Amandine Hesse (Fra) 6-2, 6-3; Polina Kudermetova bt Gergana Topalova (Bul) 6-2, 6-3; Moyuka Uchijima (Jpn) bt En Shuo Liang (Tpe) 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-1; Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt Sofya Lansere 6-2, 6-2; Tatiana Prozorova bt Anastasia Kulikova (Fin) 6-2, 6-3; Ankita Raina bt Viktoria Morvayova (Svk) 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.
Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Soha Sadiq 6-2, 6-1; Rutuja Bhosale bt Eri Shimizu (Jpn) 0-6, 7-5, 7-5; Chloe Paquet (Fra) bt Suhitha Maruri 6-2, 6-1; Naho Sato (Jpn) bt Ekaterina Makarova 7-5, 6-2; Tina Nadine Smith (Aus) bt Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) 6-3, 6-2; Jana Kolodynska bt Anna Siskova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; Carole Monnet (Fra) bt Dejana Radanovic (Srb) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6(9); Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Sapfo Sakellaridi (Gre) 6-4, 6-2.



Vlahovic's strikes help Juve keep pressure on leader Inter

Dusan Vlahovic shot Juventus to within two points of Serie A leader Inter Milan with a stunning double in Tuesday's 3-0 win over Sassuolo. The Serbia striker struck twice from distance in the first half at the Allianz Stadium in Turin to help Juve to its sixth straight win in all competitions and keep the pressure on Inter.

The result:
Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 15, 37, Chiesa 89) bt Sassuolo 0.

Australia's Hazlewood crosses 250 Test wickets

Australia's experienced seamer Josh Hazlewood crossed the 250 Test wicket mark as he snapped four in the first Test against West Indies on Wednesday. Hazlewood took four for 44 in 15 overs, claiming the wickets of Kirk Mckenzie, Kavem Hodge, Justin Greaves, and Alick Athaneze. He currently has 253 wickets from 67 matches with an average of 25.71 and an economy of 2.86.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: India Open, Jio Cinema App, 9 a.m. onwards
Vijay Merchant Trophy: (final), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Australian Open: Afternoon Session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards
AFC Asian Cup: India vs Uzbekistan, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
Australia vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 3, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 a.m. (Friday)
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Friday)

India has its task cut out against favourite Germany in the semifinals

Skipper Savita says the squad is prepared for the challenge highlighting that it needs to be good in counter control and also play an aggressive game

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

Key strategy: Savita, sharing a light moment with head coach Schopman on the eve of the last four clash, stressed on the importance of an attacking game. PTI

Back in the race after a disappointing start, the Indian women's hockey team will be hoping to keep the winning momentum going when it takes on Germany in the semifinals of the Olympic Qualifiers here on Thursday in its toughest game of the competition.

It isn't often that India starts the underdog in a match at home but with favourites Germany, the host would have to be at its best to find a way through to the final and a confirmed Olympic ticket.

Not the end of the road
A loss won't be the end of the road, with a second chance in the third place play-off, but Savita & Co. will want to avoid getting into another must-win situation.

While the numbers favour Germany, India will have the crowd in its corner. The teams played thrice in 2023 with Germany winning them all, besides the practice game before the start of the Qualifiers. The last time India won was on shootouts during the Pro-League in 2022. A regulation win was last achieved in a test match in 2015.

"We were prepared for this scenario. We knew right from the start that anything could happen – we could top the pool and play Japan or Chile or finish second and play Germany in the semifinals, there were no doubts or assumptions and we prepared for every opponent. So we are not really worried," Savita said on the eve of the match.

"Everyone knows what they are but we know we have to play attacking hockey, which is our strength. Germany is a very fit team, it has a lot of skilled individual players and they can attack fast. Defence will be very important and it will be our main focus, we need to play together and attack and defend as a team. We need to be good in counter control but we will also play our natural aggressive game," she added.

Bouncing back
After the disappointing 1-1 draw against Japan, Germany bounced back with a massive 10-0 win against Czech Republic to finish on top of Pool A and coach Valentin Altenburg, who had said his team needed to work out ways to open up defences, will be hoping to build on the victory.

"Pressure is always there. The New Zealand game was high pressure because we had to win it to stay in the competition. The Italy game was also high pressure because they also had a chance to get three points and a shot at the semifinals. The Germany match will be a different type of pressure because they are ranked higher but there will be pressure on them also," Savita explained, adding that the team's target was to stay in the present and give their 200% on the field. "

That's all we can control, not the result. So that's what we will focus on," she said.

The other semifinal will see USA take on Japan in a clash of styles, the Americans more physical and defensive against the well-rounded Japanese with an airtight defence and equally quick on the counters with an ability to open up the field and find gaps along the ground without resorting to too many high balls.

Thursday's games:
Chile vs Italy (10.30 a.m.), New Zealand vs Czech Republic (1.30 p.m.).
Semifinals: USA vs Japan (4.30 p.m.), India vs Germany (7.30 p.m.).

India will look to build on its defensive display when it takes on Uzbekistan

AFC ASIAN CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

In sync: India will hope everything clicks against the Uzbeks. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

India will look to start afresh after its 0-2 loss to Australia in the AFC Asian Cup opener when it takes on Uzbekistan at the same venue, the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, here on Thursday.

Igor Stimac's side pulled off an impressive defensive display in the first half against the Socceroos and will look to build on that in a more evenly-matched contest this time around.

The Uzbeks, who have been one of the most prominent teams in central Asia in the last few years, are ranked 43 spots below Australia but way higher than the Blue Tigers.

It had topped the Asian Cup qualification group and reached the final of the CAFA Nations Cup in June last year. It has lost just thrice in the last two years and its last loss against a lower-ranked side was to Georgia in November 2021.

However, the team's biggest loss will be 'Uzbek Messi', Eldor Shomudorov, who suffered a leg injury in December last year.

On the other hand, India will look to allow more "attack-minded" players to get into the game. Unlike Australia, Uzbekistan played most of its football through the centre, maintaining a high line and long balls. "Uzbekistan is technically, a very well-equipped team," Stimac told reporters,

"So, we need to be well aware of how to reach the final third when the chance arises and be effective there."

Injury worries
With an injury-stricken side, including a recovering Sahal Abdul Samad and two more players after the match against Australia (whom the coach refused to mention), Stimac will look to script history, trying to pull off its first-ever win over the Central Asian side.

The game is scheduled for an 8 p.m. IST kick-off.

Meanwhile, Australia will face Syria earlier on Thursday while the United Arab Emirates will play Palestine in the last fixture of the day.

Expect a high-pressing game, says Stimac

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

Stimac. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

A wounded tiger is a dangerous beast. India and its coach will be cautious of this very aphorism when it eyes its first points at the AFC Asian Cup 2023 against Uzbekistan on Thursday.

"Uzbekistan is a competitive side. The recent results prove what kind of strength it has. It didn't gain the victory in the opening game of the tournament, which will have it under pressure," Igor Stimac, India's coach, told reporters in the pre-match press conference.

"We can expect a high-pressing game from the very first minute. We need to find a way how to handle that. But our boys are excited and happy for another opportunity ahead of us."

India flew to Doha without three of its first-team regulars, Ashique Kuruniyan, Anwar Ali and Jeakson Singh, who were ruled out due to injury while its key midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad has failed to get match-fit in time for consecutive games.

"Sahal is still not ready. That's one, and we do have a couple of players with certain problems (after the) Australia game. So, changes will be there. I will not name the players who are with the problems obviously, but changes are coming," Stimac added.

The Croat chose a defensive midfield set-up against Australia, but for the Uzbekistan game, he said that he will look for starters who aim to get the ball into the final third as much as possible.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Sukruth to helm Karnataka under-14 squad

BENGALURU: J. Sukruth will lead Karnataka in the South Zone under-14 cricket tournament which will commence at Goa on January 23.
The squad:
J. Sukruth (Captain), Syaamantak Anirudh, Chavanth Gowda, Aditya Jha, Joy James, S.N. Avaneesha, Harish Bam, Aaryansingh Chavda, Samarth Kulkarni, Narasimha, Om Agarwalla, Nitish Arya, Atharv Deshpande, Suhaan Bhandary, Vishwesh Alagundagi, Prayag Bijesh.
Coach: Kunal Kapoor.
Bowling coach: Adithya Sagar.

Arsh and Syaamantak hit centuries for Bangalore Zone

Arsh (115) and Syaamantak Anirudh (172) found form for Bangalore Zone against Mangalore Zone in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal cricket tournament.
The scores:
Bangalore Zone 394 in 80.3 overs (Arsh 115, Syaamantak Anirudh 172, Dhruv Akki 38, Dhakshath 4/41, H. Ajay 3/39) drew with Mangalore Zone 84 all out in 39.5 overs (Raj Madhusudhan 5/20) and 168/9 in 68 overs (C. Karkera 25, S.N. Avaneesha 71, Krithin 38, Ishan Kausthubh 3/54).
President's XI 267 in 67.2 overs (J. Sukruth 65, N. Ronith 106, K.S. Rohith 3/54) and 137/6 in 35.4 overs (Sanjit Sathish 45, Aalapkrishna Manikandan 35, K.S. Rohith 3/43) bt Tumkur Zone 94 in 36.4 overs (Vishnu Swaroop 27, J. Sukruth 5/19) and 109 in 32.5 overs (Vishnu Swaroop 42, Rohith Reddy 32, Prathyush Shetty 3/22, Atharv Deshpande 5/43).
Shivamogga Zone 88 in 48.4 overs (T.G. Guruprasad 27, Aadrith 4/5) and 115/4 in 39.3 overs (A. Rohan 48, Dayan Khan 26, D. Bhargav 27 n.o.) drew with Vice President's XI 316/7 in 90 overs (Tanshh Krishna 55, Aaron Minj 26, Shahan Shadab 95, Kumar Jha 62, D. Bhargav 3/58).
Bangalore City XI 323 in 82.5 overs (Thushar Khande 32, Arush Jain 118, Shiven Gupta 117, Abhishek Shivashimpager 3/41, Vishwesh Alagundagi 5/52) and 128/2 decl. in 30 overs (A. Rishik 27, Thushar Khande 58 n.o., R. Nithin 26 n.o.) drew with Dharwad Zone 128 in 44 overs (Siddu Yalaburgi 33, Advaith Kamesh 3/30, Suhaan Bhandary 4/41) and 110/4 in 24 overs (Siddu Yalaburgi 32, Abhinav Sharma 29).
Secretary's XI 185 in 58.4 overs (Rithvik Kulasekar 43, Harish Bam 69 n.o., Mohammed Shamsheer 4/58) and 143/7 in 44 overs (Harish Bam 30, Rithvik Kulasekar 47, Chetan Rangraj 4/30) drew with Raichur Zone 241/7 decl. in 83.5 overs (Hasnain Nihan 34, Ahmed Ali 70, Vishnuvardhan Pukale 66).
Mysore Zone 211 in 72 overs (Chavanth Gowda 28, K.M. Dheemanth 60, Krushik Krishna 36, Tanay Dalmia 4/28, Prayag Bijesh 4/47) and 220/3 in 31 overs (Chavanth Gowda 74, Dushyanth Gowda 28) drew with Combined City XI 288 in 87.4 overs (Nitish Arya 86, Aaryansinh Chavda 46, Aditya Jha 61, Neeraj Kulkarni 26, S. Yatharth 3/67, Samarth Kulakarni 3/42).

Mithila stars in Karnataka's win over Bihar

Mithila Vinod (61, 34b, 9x4, 1x6) helped Karnataka defeat Bihar in the BCCI women's one-day trophy match held at Cuttack.
The scores:
Karnataka 259/9 in 50 overs (G.R. Prerana 26, Niki Prasad 58, Vrinda Dinesh 52, Mithila Vinod 61, P. Priya 4/43) bt Bihar 106/9 in 50 overs.

Pushing forward: FC's Goa's Rodriguez tries to get past Fanai.
BISWARANJAN ROUT

Fernandes nets Goa's winner against BFC

SUPER CUP

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Brison Fernandes produced the winner in injury-time to help FC Goa beat Bengaluru FC by a solitary goal in a Group-D league match of the Super Cup on Wednesday.

The win helped Goa tally six points from two wins and remain in the hunt for a semifinal berth.

And the loss effectively ended the hopes of last year's finalist Bengaluru, which had lost its opening match against host Odisha and is yet to win a point after two outings.

The result: Group-D: FC Goa 1 (Brison Fernandes 90+4) bt Bengaluru FC 0.
Odisha FC 3 (Lalthathanga 45, Mauricio 59, Vanlalruatfela 79) bt Inter Kashi FC 0.

Deepika makes fine comeback

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Deepika Kumari made a fine comeback to claim the top spot in the recurve women's section after the first phase of the National selection trials for the World Cups, Asia Cups and Paris Olympics.

She topped the chart with 24 points. Bhajan Kaur (21), Simranjeet Kaur (18), Ankita Bhakat (17.5) and Sangeeta (13) took the second, third, fourth and fifth places respectively at SAI campus on Wednesday.

B. Dhiraj was number one with 24 points in the recurve men's section. Rishabh Yadav (22) perched atop the compound men's section.V. Jyothi Surekha (23.5), Aditi Swami (20.5), Sakshi Chaudhary (16.5), Muskan Kirar (15) and Parneet Kaur (15) were the top five archers in compound women's category.